

# Gifts Are Going Up, But Don't Go As Far

By John J. Hurt  
RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board computer flashes the good news that Southern Baptists are contributing many more dollars for overseas missions than they used to—\$57 million last year compared by \$15.3 million just 20 years ago.

There's also good news of an increase in missionary appointments—from a staff of 1,283 just 20 years ago to 2,858.

But the good news headlines begin to shrink when the figures are adjusted for a true comparative.

Southern Baptist membership has grown by approximately 50 percent in the 20-year span—from just over 9 million in 1958 to just over 13 million last year. But the ratio for appointment of new career missionaries shows it now takes 103,017 Southern Baptists for one career appointment, compared with 60,441 for an appointment in 1963.

Value of the Foreign Mission Board dollar has declined to offset some of the effectiveness in increased dollars. Per capita gifts to the board are up, \$4.43 last year compared to \$1.66 just 20 years ago.

But the purchasing power of those dollars went up only from \$1.92 to \$2.43 because of inflation.

Inflation is much worse in many countries abroad where the board spends those dollars. Value of the dollar has declined by 43 percent in Japan in the last two years, for example,

## State Income Slightly Below CP Budget

Cooperative Program receipts for July through the offices of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board were \$593,598, according to announcement by Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer for the board.

The July 1978 figure was \$13,339 more than for the same month of 1977, Kelly said. The 1978 receipts were 2.3 percent more than the \$580,259 received in July of 1977.

The July 1978 receipts brought the total Cooperative Program gifts for the year to \$4,997,285. This is \$40,381 less than the prorated budget figure for seven months or \$5,037,666.

The receipts for the first seven months of 1978 were \$576,427 more than the \$4,420,858 received in the same period of 1977. This is a 13 percent increase.

The Cooperative Program is the pipeline to missionary effort, Kelly pointed out. "Gifts to missions this year in Mississippi have been better than ever before," he said. "I am sure they will continue to support missions work throughout the world during the remainder of the year in the greatest amounts ever."

## Seminaries Graduate 1,287

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — In the echo of a recurring cry for trained leadership, all six Southern Baptist seminaries graduated their largest classes in history this spring.

The total of 1,287 persons who received graduate degrees from Southern Baptist Theological seminaries included 370 from Southwestern in Fort Worth, Texas; 272 from Southern in Louisville, Ky.; 261 from Southeastern in Wake Forest, N.C.; 187 from New Orleans; 101 from Golden Gate in Mill Valley, Calif.; and 96 from the SBC's youngest seminary, Midwestern, in Kansas City, Mo.

costing the board \$660,000 in its operating budget there during that period.

J. Winston Crawley, director of the overseas division for the board, looks at these figures and others to explain: "This is simply to say that it takes a great and rapidly increasing amount of contributions on the part of Southern Baptists just to stand still in stewardship before we can ever begin talking about being bold."

His message was cast against the Bold Mission Thrust of the convention, which calls for doubling the missionary force to 5,000 by the end of this century.

Crawley's statistical study shifts back and forth between concern and joy, mostly the former. The facts do not show the boldness among Southern Baptists for which he begs.

He is disturbed that "as Southern Baptists become more prosperous" they should be giving "a larger proportion for outreach beyond our local congregations." They are not.

### Depression Stewardship

The best Southern Baptist stewardship, he says, was during the depression of the 30's "and there has been no consistent tendency for any increase."

There is joy as the states affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention begin to increase the percentage of the Cooperative Program dollar they pass on for Southern Baptist Convention work. A trend of the last two years has reversed a drop which went from 37 to 35 percent.

But the Foreign Mission Board has a problem within the Southern Baptist family. Four years ago it received more than 50 percent of the Cooperative Program dollar. It was about 45 percent last year.

Pointing to the 50 percent, Crawley said it would take a return to that for a "catch up, and it is, when we go beyond that, that we might begin to think of business in reaching out to more than 95 percent of the world's lost people."

The overseas mission director also has a major concern "related especially to the need for more preacher missionaries to do the work of the church planting and the church nurturing and multiplying that is at the heart of our missionary strategy."

"We do not yet see the 'Bold Thrust' of preachers offering themselves to go out to lands where most of the people have never heard the gospel and where there are now so few preachers," he

## In Wheeling, W. Va.

# New Work Evolves From Mississippi Mission Trips

By Anne McWilliams  
Two Mississippi teams were on volunteer mission in Ohio County, W. Va., July 23-30, their purpose to find people interested in starting home Bible fellowships, and eventually a Southern Baptist mission, in the city of Wheeling. The teams were from Harrisburg Church, Tupelo, and First Church, Yazoo City.

This effort had been planned to coincide with the Home Mission Board's appointment of Charles Stouffer to the Mission Service Corps, on assignment to work in Wheeling. Stouffer hopes to help establish a Southern Baptist church in the city of 45,000 where at present there is not a single one. A retired pastor, he moved to Wheeling from Jacksonville, Fla. He is to be sponsored by First Church, Yazoo City.

During the same week a team from Myakka, Fla., was at nearby Moundsville. They and the new pastor of the Southern Baptist church in Moundsville, Rod Kelly, were present for the opening of a mission at Roberts Ridge on July 30.

Ray Slaughter, area missionary for that section of West Virginia, said that 65 percent of the 150,000 people in the Greater Wheeling area are not affiliated with any church.

said. "It is still our hope that we may see, for example, one new preacher-missionary each year for each of our 92

(Continued on Page 3)

## Journeyman Appointees Include Mississippians

RICHMOND, Va. — Ninety-five young men and women bound for one of 42 different countries stood before a crowd of more than 750 on Friday, July 21, and were commissioned as the newest and largest group of Southern Baptist missionary journeyman. Five of these were Mississippians.

"It's the largest by one," said Stanley A. Nelson, Foreign Mission Board journeyman program coordinator. Previously the largest journeyman groups were in 1977 and 1976 when 94 were employed.

During the two-hour service in Richmond's Bon Air Baptist Church, the new missionaries heard what's ahead in the two-year program for college graduates age 26 and under.

As they live in foreign countries telling others about Jesus Christ, some people will receive their words as "the stench of death . . . to others it will be the fragrance of life," said R. Keith

JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI, THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1978

Volume CII, Number 27

## Journeyman Appointees Include Mississippians

Parks, the board's Mission Support Division director.

Implying that the new missionaries will encounter difficult moments on the field, Parks noted that "God will be a refuge, give his personal presence, grace, peace and strength to you." He

(Continued on Page 3)



Tenney



Von Kanel



Reynolds



Dent



Wilson

## Mission Service Corps Still Short On Sponsors

In a year's existence, the Mission Service Corps has attracted 123 inquiries and applications for foreign mission service through the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, with 24 thus far approved for service.

James Cecil of the FMB reports that "We do not have nearly enough sponsors to provide funds for the number of applicants that could be approved for priority mission requests."

Cecil did not know how many financial sponsors have been committed to aid volunteers in the one and two year mission pro-

jects, but said that out of the 24 approved, a half dozen sponsored themselves. Two have been underwritten by state conventions, and six by churches or partially by churches. The other 10 are being financed by combination of funds, but never directly by Cooperative Program dollars.

Cecil, who places laypersons in overseas projects, reports no problem in finding enough shorter term volunteers. "This morning I had a telephone call from a man with an airplane, four doctors and two crews of eight men. He

(Continued on Page 3)

## Rebecca Thompson Named A Carey Vice President

Rebecca Thompson has been named vice-president for student affairs at William Carey College, according to an announcement by Ralph Noonkester, president of the college. The promotion was effective as of August 1. Miss Thompson will succeed Jerry Oswald, who has assumed a full-time teaching position in the department of religion and philosophy of the college.



Thompson

Miss Thompson, who will receive her doctor of educational administration degree with an emphasis on higher education this month from the University of Southern Mississippi, is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Thompson of Baton Rouge.

A graduate of Ouachita Baptist University with a bachelor's degree in 1970, Miss Thompson also holds the masters degree from Henderson State College, also in Arkansas. She is a member of University Baptist Church, Hattiesburg.

For the past four years Miss Thompson has served as director of the Special Programs department at William Carey College.

## Quoted

Cultural: All parents, including those who consider themselves atheists or agnostics, should give their children some religious education, according to Benjamin Spock, the pediatrician and author. "Judaism and Christianity are integral parts of the history and culture and attitudes of most of the people in the United States," he said in the August issue of Redbook magazine, "even of those who have rejected these religions; and it's an important aspect of education to understand our pasts. It's also valuable for all people to be familiar with the Biblical stories that their fellow citizens often refer to, and to be familiar with the hymns that are often sung outside churches as well as in them."

## Associational Officers Will Train August 26

The Associational Officers' Training Conferences, all set for August 26, will feature a number of Mississippi Baptist leaders.

The conferences, set in three locations, for convenience of travel, will meet simultaneously in the First Baptist Churches of Oxford, Carthage, and Columbia.

Following is a listing of the leaders for each conference in the Oxford, Carthage, and Columbia meetings respectively.

Each meeting will begin at 10 a.m. and conclude at 2:30 p.m.

Sunday School Directors: Judd Allen; Bryant Cummings; Gene Hendrix;

Sunday School Adult Directors: Milton Burd; Mose Dangerfield; Farrell Blankenship;

Sunday School Youth Directors: Bill Ballou; Barry Hardy; Larry Salter;

Sunday School Children's Directors: Mrs. Bill Ballou; Billy Hudgens; Wayne Ward;

Sunday School Preschool Directors: Mrs. Roger Dorsett; Elmo McLaurin; Kathryn Price;

Church Training Directors: Roger Dorsett; David McCubbin; Kermit King;

Church Training Adult Leaders: Norman A. Rodgers; Warren Trussell; John Sawyer;

Church Training Youth Leaders: Ron Shearer; Larry Garner; Jan Coslett;

Church Training Children's Leaders: Lenore Stringer; Neal Buchanan; Robert Brown;

Church Training Preschool Leaders: Mrs. Patsy Wilson; Evelyn George; Mrs. Dennis Conniff;

Church Recreation: David Rogers;

(Continued on Page 3)

## Becky Briscoe Named To Mississippi WMU Staff

Becky Briscoe, 28, has been elected to the staff of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to work in the Department of Woman's Missionary Union.

Miss Briscoe, who grew up in the Oxford area, will become Acteens consultant on Sept. 1, replacing Marilyn Hopkins who will become Baptist Young Women Consultant in the same department.

A graduate of the University of Mississippi with a master's degree in elementary education, Miss Briscoe has taught fourth grade for the past

several years, in the South Panola School District.

She is a member of Clear Creek Baptist Church, near Oxford in Lafayette Baptist Association. She works with youth in Church Training and directs the church choir.

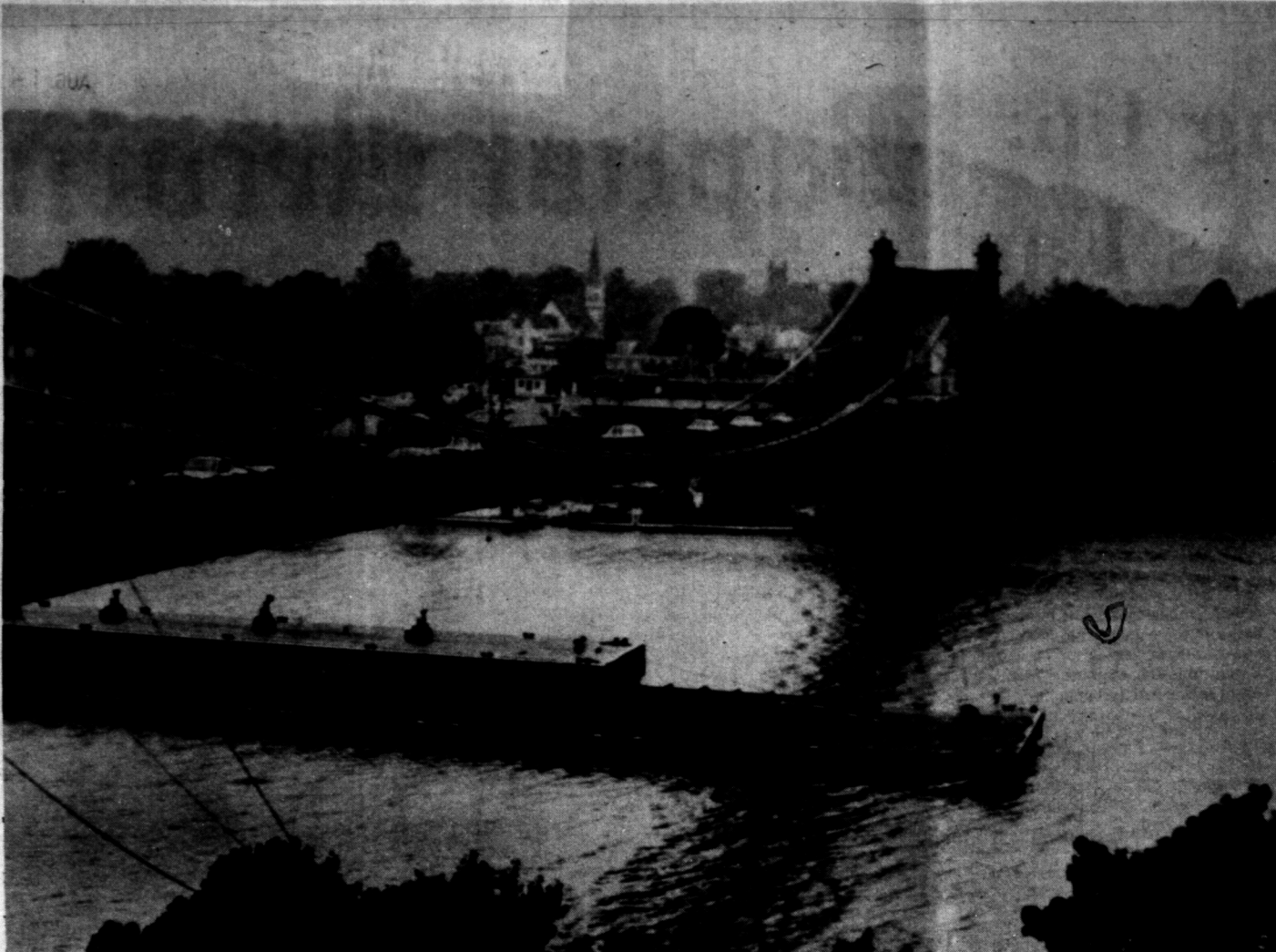
She has served as associational Acteens director and was president of associational Baptist Young Women.

Miss Hopkins will replace Frances Shaw who moved earlier this summer to Florida to be associate director of Florida Baptists' Woman's Missionary Union.



"Drop the Handkerchief" was the favorite game during Bible school in the park at Warwood in Wheeling, W. Va. Grown-ups (from Harrisburg, Tupelo) are Opal Duncan and John and Hazel Roberts. (More pictures on Page 2)

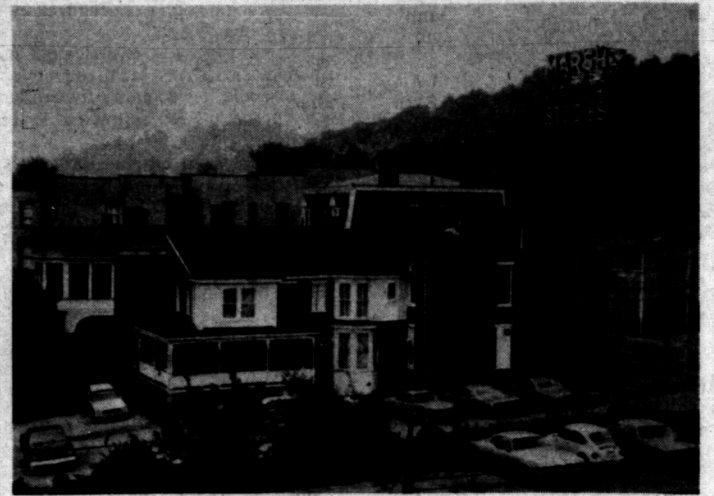




The century-old suspension bridge at Wheeling is a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. It crosses the Ohio River at 10th St. and was once the longest single span bridge in the world.



Charles Stouffer, retired pastor, has been appointed to the Home Mission Board's Mission Service Corps and has moved to Wheeling, West Va. from Jacksonville, Fla. He is pictured in Elm Grove, a subdivision of Wheeling. First, Yazoo City is his sponsor in the Corps.



Marsh Stogies is a city industry. Coal mines and glass factories are numerous.



Ulvie and Ruth Fitts, Opal Duncan, Hazel and John Roberts, the volunteer team from Harrisburg, Tupelo, eat lunch at a Wheeling restaurant.



## New Work Evolves In Wheeling

(See story on Page 1)

Photos by  
Anne McWilliams



Opal Duncan teaches the memory verse at Warwood with the help of her puppet, Mississippi Mouse. Supplies were kept in the shopping cart.



First Church, Yazoo City, will be seeing a slide show, for their volunteer team took a lot of pictures. Above, the group is preparing to leave Hughes Hall at West Liberty State College.



Yock, a student at West Liberty College, drove a borrowed van for the Mississippians, whose bus broke down.



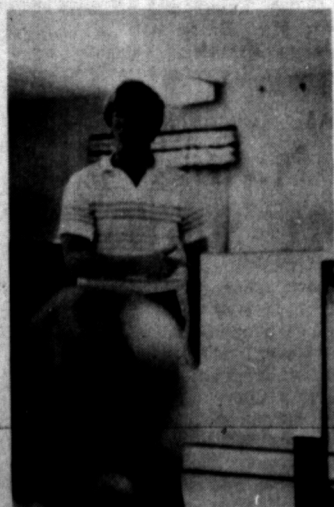
Monika Wilkerson, daughter of Landon and Pat Wilkerson, agricultural missionaries to Honduras, went with the Yazoo City team.



Swinging around the mountain curves in the college van was a lot of fun.



Adults and young people from Yazoo City spent a morning making personal invitations to their services.



Danny Johnson, youth director at First, Yazoo City, was the preacher for the revival.



Children came to watch the puppet show.



Kerry was visiting her cousin in Wheeling and went with her to Bible school.



Yazoo City youths get ready for a puppet show at Elm Grove Community Center, as they put up a tree in the Garden of Eden as background for Adam and Eve.



# New Work Evolves From Mississippi Mission Trips

(Continued from Page 1)

derstorm, they endured. Temporary repairs got them to West Liberty State College, in the mountains nine miles from Wheeling, where they were to stay at a dorm and commute to the city. While the bus was in the shop, Mon-Thurs., they borrowed two vans and student drivers from the college.

This was the third summer the Yazoo City church had sent a mission team to West Virginia. Cecil Lee was director of the expedition. Other adults along were his wife Jo, Danny, Johnson, Benton and Mary Hayman, and Burnell and Evelyn Hitt.

The young people were Beth Ann Anderson, Jay Barfield, Neil Byrd, Kay Eldridge, Lee Glascoe, Gail Hayman, Walter Hayman, Ginny Lou McCoy, Jerri Meeks, Sherri Meeks, Gaye Mooneyhan, Ann Turner, Beth McIntosh, Monika Wilkerson, Stan Stanford, Steve Stanford, Julie Vandevender, Beverly Walker, Calvin Walker, John White, Steve White, Jimmy Yates, Tee Turner, and Dallas White.

## Charles Stouffer

Wheeling was built beside the Ohio River on the little point of West Virginia land that juts up between Ohio and Pennsylvania.

"Coal mines are all around here in the mountains," Charles Stouffer pointed out. "There are some steel mills and glass factories. I understand that a good many Polish-speaking people live here, as well as Italians."



## Historical Commission Meets

The Mississippi Baptist Historical Commission held its regular meeting recently in the Commission's reading room of the Leland Speed Library at Mississippi College. Among those attending were, from the left, Charles Holifield, pastor of Liberty Baptist Church, Liberty; C. B. Hamlet, III, chaplain at Forrest General Hospital, Hattiesburg; Mrs. Alice Cox, special collections librarian, Mississippi College; Dewey R. Roach, president of the board of trustees of the Commission and head of the department of philosophy and religion at Mississippi University for Women, Columbus; Edward McMillan, vice-president for graduate studies and special programs at Mississippi College; Jack Gunn, dean at Delta State University, Cleveland, and Mrs. R. A. McLe-more, executive secretary of the Commission, Clinton. (M.C. Photo)

# No Anti-Missionary Pattern Is Seen in Visa Difficulties

By Ruth Fowler

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries are having difficulty obtaining permission to live and work in several nations, but Foreign Mission Board officials see no pattern of anti-missionary sentiment.

Winston Crawley, the board's overseas division director, explained that even though missionaries in as many as 15 nations have experienced varying degrees of difficulty in obtaining work permits there are no nations where Southern Baptist work is in obvious danger because of such problems.

For missionaries to live and work in a nation, they must obtain from that country's government an entry permit or visa and sometimes a work permit. Governments use these permits as a means of knowing and controlling who enters and works in their respective countries.

"Each country is its own case and must be considered separately," Crawley said of the recent problems. "The limitations are not directed at Southern Baptist missionaries specifically, but usually include missionaries as a part of a larger group. Such limitations express policies and goals of individual governments."

The only nation where it now seems possible Southern Baptist missionaries may lose their presence completely over visa difficulties is Guyana, where final permission for the Charles P. Loves to return after furlough has not been received. The Loves are the only missionaries assigned there because work permits were denied other couples attempting to enter the country. The Loves have

Stouffer was born in Pennsylvania. Before retirement he was pastor in Maryland and North Carolina. In Jacksonville, Fla. he supervised the housekeeping department of the Baptist Medical Center and was a member of the Southside Estates Baptist Church.

He and his wife have moved into a trailer; he hopes to begin a Bible study at the trailer park, which is new. Their five children are scattered in five states, Stouffer said.

## Knocking On Doors

As they knocked on the doors of 200 homes in Warwood the Tupelo team found six who said they would be interested in attending a home Bible study, sponsored by Southern Baptists. The first night they met a woman who was so enthusiastic that she wanted them to begin that night and hold a Bible study in her living room.

The two-story houses were close together, their small yards neat and well-kept.

Wednesday afternoon, the team found one woman at home next door to the Beauty Box; she said she was a Catholic.

At one house a young blond mother came to the door with two children and a big white dog. "We are Lutherans," she said in a friendly voice.

Across the street, an older woman, very upset, exclaimed, "I don't have time to talk. Two of my family are in the hospital."

Down the street a teen-ager came to

the door and said, "I'm talking to my mother on the phone. I can't answer your questions."

A Methodist woman, evidently lonely, wanted to talk and talk about the Methodists and the Baptists.

One old lady said, "I read my Bible every day. I don't need to join a Bible study group."

A young man came to the door, the odor of frying fish wafting out behind him. "Yes, that sounds good. Perhaps our family would be interested. Would you please come back and tell us more about this later?"

A middle-aged man sitting on his porch reading the paper said he was a Catholic, but added, "This is a good thing you are doing. The world certainly needs more Bible study."

## Bible School

On Tuesday afternoon, seven children met under umbrellas in the rain for Bible school in the park at Warwood. By Friday 23 children had been enrolled. Thursday was highest, with 18.

John Roberts directed the games. The favorite was "Drop the Handkerchief"—these children said they had never played it.

Ulvie Fitts told Bible stories and directed the prayer times. Opal Duncan taught the memory verses, using her purple crocheted hand puppet, Mississippi Mouse. Hazel Roberts told character stories. Ruth Fitts directed the Bible quizzes (and the children's answers revealed the poverty of their Bible knowledge). She served the Kool-aid and cookies from the back of a shopping cart. This cart, borrowed from a nearby store, held the supplies and was a sort of Good Times Wagon.

## Puppets

By Friday the three Bible schools directed by the Yazoo City team had 25 children present. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights many of the children returned and brought their parents to the Elm Grove Community Center for the revival. Thursday night the puppet show was about Adam and Eve and God's creation of the world; Johnson preached on "How God Expresses His Love."

Friday afternoon, when the puppeteers presented a show at the Elm Grove shopping center, at least 60 people gathered around to see and hear.

Ray Slaughter said, "I can't always tell by the number of decisions or number in attendance what actual results of a mission like this will be. But I do know that no group's efforts is ever wasted. Every group reaches some people. A church may not be started in the place where they worked, but they always contact people who may be looking then or later for a place to worship."

tage of foreigners living permanently in each area. The E. Wesley Millers were recently denied a visa to Switzerland because the quota for the area in which they wanted to live was full when they returned from furlough. Appeals later resulted in the granting of the visa.

During the past months, slow processing or an occasional denial of permits has taken place in Indonesia, Brazil, Argentina, Angola and Belize. In some nations, restrictions represent an effort to keep out leftist factions and in others, an effort to keep out anyone but leftists, Crawley said.

Countries with an official national religion or Communist-controlled countries are often reluctant to allow missionaries to enter. Exceptions are made in countries such as Greece for missionaries to work with English-speaking Americans or Europeans living there for business or military reasons. Greece has a national religion.

In other nations missionaries work with the understanding that their ministries will revolve around social and benevolent efforts and not around the starting of churches. Missionaries remain in Uganda doing social work although Baptist churches have not met since they, along with some 26 other churches, were banned from meeting by the government. Missionaries serve in Yemen in medical efforts though no churches meet.

Ruth Fowler is a news writer for the FMB.

## MSC Short On Sponsors

(Continued from Page 1)

wanted a project," said Cecil, who has already reviewed needs and was planning to phone that man back that day.

Last week a Home Mission Board report also indicated serious problems in finding financial sponsors for the Mission Service Corps which seeks to place 5,000 volunteers on the home and foreign mission fields by 1982.

## The Missions Task

# What Proof Do You Give?

By John Alexander, Director Stewardship Department

A layman asked his pastor: "Preacher, how many Baptists will be in heaven?" "About one out of five," the pastor replied.

We have all heard the statement that everybody talking about heaven isn't going there. Jesus made this crystal clear in his words recorded by Matthew in chapter 7, verse 22. "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in thy name, and by thy name cast out demons, and by thy name do many mighty works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Jesus tells us the person who hears his words and practices (lives by) them is a wise man and whoever hears his words and does not live by them is foolish.

Why did the pastor tell his layman that only about one out of five Baptists would be admitted on the great entrance day? In our churches about 20 percent of the members gave 80 to 90 percent of

the money. This means that 80 percent of our members give only 10 to 20 percent of the money.

About 25 percent of the members are completely lost to the cause, for the churches don't even have a living address for them. On a Sunday morning only about one-third to one-half of the membership attends worship services. In Mississippi it takes a small army of us to win one soul to Christ during any given year.

Jesus questioned his listeners by asking them why they called him "Lord, Lord," and then did not the things he taught them. In Matthew's record of the separation of the animals, the goats are judged by what they did not do.

There are a lot of Baptists, I am afraid, who went through all the motions but didn't make the real commitment.

Paul had many problems with the Corinthian church. He talks rather straight to them. In II Corinthians 8:24, he admonishes the membership to "prove the sincerity of their love." How? Through their giving!

Giving is probably the most accurate measure of our devotion to God. When about 50 percent of our members go year after year giving nothing to God's work, and another 25 to 30 percent only tip him on occasion, perhaps the pastor was right who surmised that about one out of five Baptists will be admitted to the higher realm.

The Rich Young Ruler turned away from eternal life in order to continue holding on to his temporal possessions. Multitudes today follow in his path.

For one to say "God bless you" to a needy man and not give him what he needs belies his profession. To pronounce religious words and phrases and not demonstrate one's love by proportionate giving to God belies the sincerity of one's pronouncements. Between their profession of faith and practice of Christian stewardship for some there is a great void.

What proof do you give that your profession is real? James says that faith without works is dead!

## Associational Officers To Train

(Continued from Page 1)

Jimmy Smith; Jim Blakeney; Brotherhood Directors: Paul Harrell, Guy Culver; Dan West; Baptist Men's Directors: Nat Bullock; Trent Grubbs; Bob Hanvey; RA Leaders: Bill Crider; Rusty Griffin; Joe Waggener;

WMU Directors: Mrs. James Burns; Mrs. Eleanor Burt; Marjean Patterson;

Baptist Women/BYW Directors: Mrs. H. L. Murphy; Ethel McKeithen; Mrs. Billy Williams;

Acteons Directors: Mrs. Sherman Barnette; Mrs. Warren Haney; Marilyn Hopkins;

GA Directors: Mrs. R. A. Cooper; Waudine Storey; Mrs. Bob Kemp;

Mission Friends Directors: Mrs. Larry Otis; Mrs. Willis Brown; Mrs. Marguerite Speights;

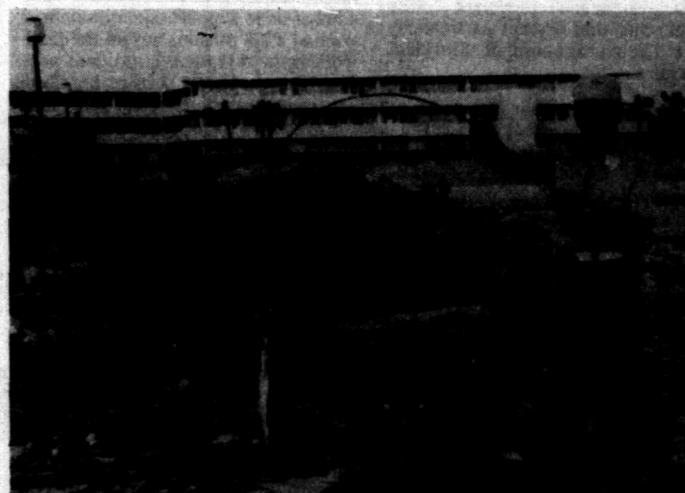
Directors of Missions: Thurman Alford; Foy Rogers; Ralph Halbrook; Moderators: Hollis Bryant; J. C. Mitchell; Richard Alford;

Clerks: Martin Bradley; Leon Young; Mrs. L. B. Atchison;

Missions Committee Chairmen: Holmes Carlisle; J. T. Burdine; Ray Grissett;

Directors of Evangelism: Lewis Sewell; Eugene Dobbs; Roy Collum; Church Music Directors: H. G. Earwood; Herman Milner; Ronnie Ross;

Pastors' Conference Leaders: Leon Emery; Joel Haire; James Walker; Stewardship Chairmen: Clarence Cutrell; Guy Henderson; John Alexander.



## Caught Between Sessions

Hugh Walker of Jackson's Parkway Baptist Church wasn't one to "flounder" around during Sunday School Week at Gulfshore. Walker, director of his church's homebound department, was one of hundreds of Mississippi Baptists who participated in one of four Sunday School mini-weeks at Gulfshore. More photos on Sunday School weeks in next week's Baptist Record.

## Journeyman Appointees

(Continued from Page 1)

based his talk on Ezekiel 11:16-17.

The missionary journeymen will work as teachers, nurses, evangelists, homemakers, secretaries, and office workers in eight geographical areas of the world. This year's group includes nine married couples. Also a brother and sister were among those in the 14th group of missionary journeymen to be employed since the board started the program in 1965.

Of the journeymen, 20 were commissioned for East Asia; 16 for Europe, the Middle East and South Asia; 15 for West Africa; 14 each for Middle America and the Caribbean, and Eastern and Southern Africa; eight for Eastern South America; and four each for Southeast Asia and Western South America.

## Mississippians

The Mississippians are Loretta Reynolds, Bob Dent, Jr., Randy Von Kanel, Claudia Rae Tenney, and Patricia Wilson.

Loretta Reynolds will be employed as a music and youth director in Roadtown, Leeward Islands. Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Reynolds of Grove Hill, Ala., she is a 1978 graduate of University of Southern Mississippi. Her church is First, Hattiesburg.

Bob Dent, Jr. will work as a Bible teacher and youth worker in Voinjama City, Liberia. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Preston Dent of Holly Springs,

Miss., he was most recently employed as director of activities and youth at First Church in Holly Springs. He attended University of Mississippi and graduated from Union University, Jackson, TN.

Claudia Rae Tenney is to be employed as an MK teacher and secretary, Maceio, Brazil. Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Tenney of Columbia, Miss., she graduated from Belmont College in Nashville this year.

Randy Von Kanel will be a music and youth worker in George Town, Cayman Islands. Most recently he was a voice instructor at William Carey College. He has a Master of Church Music degree, having studied at William Carey and New Orleans Seminary. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Von Kanel of Pascagoula and his home church is Arlington Heights, Pascagoula.

Patricia Anne Wilson will work as a medical technologist in Pusan, Korea. Most recently she was a medical technologist in Houston, Tex. Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Flint Wilson, Jr. of Osyka, Miss., she was born in Dallas, Tex. She graduated from Southwest Junior College, Summit, Miss., and Southeastern Louisiana University, and received a medical technology certificate from M. D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, Tex.

## MBMC Plans Fall Bazaar

The Auxiliary of the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center is making plans for a Fabulous Fall Fiesta Bazaar to be held on September 20, 1978, in the lobby of the old hospital building on North State Street in Jackson.

Monies made from the project will go toward the purchase of a needed piece of equipment for MBMC. The amount realized from the bazaar will determine what equipment will be bought.

A variety of items will be offered for sale at the Bazaar, including baked goods, jams, jellies, pickles, plants and flowers, paintings, drawings, art needlework, crafts, white elephants, and clothing.

According to Mrs. Pearl Wymer, Bazaar chairman, all contributions are welcome; and the public is urged to attend.

For further information contact Mrs. Katherine Feldman, hospital hostess, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, (968-1210).

## Mission Service Corps Applications

Those desiring Mission Service Corps application blanks should consult their pastors. Blanks will be mailed to every pastor in the state next week.

Foy Rogers, chairman of the state Volunteers in Missions Committee, said that his committee would like to receive reports of Mississippians going into the Mission Service Corps (for one or two years) at home or abroad, or of churches, individuals, or associations in the state giving financial support to Mission Service Corps workers. Write him at Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

## JACKSON FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SPONSORS BUS TO Labor Day Single Adult Conference at RIDGECREST

ITINERARY (From Jackson's First Baptist Church) Thursday, August 31 — 7 AM, arriving in Atlanta at 5 PM. Leave Atlanta Friday, arriving at Ridgcrest in the afternoon. Return from Ridgcrest Monday, September 4, arriving in Jackson at 10 PM.

## COST

Total Ridgcrest Fees	\$ 55.75
Transportation	19.25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 75.00</b>

You pay for Atlanta motel lodging (2, 3, or 4 per room). You pay for meals enroute.

Your host will be David Roddy, Minister of Education, First Baptist Church. Call 948-8780 for your reservations now.



# The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

## Editorials

### Missions Boldness? . . .

## Statistics Reveal Our Strength

Recently Dr. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention, was addressing a semi-annual new staff members orientation in Jackson. On these occasions church staff members who have accepted new positions in the state are invited to come to the Baptist Building for a day of orientation in every area of work carried on in the building.

As Dr. Kelly addressed the new staff members, he revealed statistics which should be of interest to every Mississippi Baptist.

Initially, he revealed that there are 1,903 Southern Baptist churches in the state. Recorded resident membership in these churches is 436,245. This means that of the 600,245 total membership, 164,000 members are non-resident. That is a percentage of 27.3.

This also means that we are a state of churches that are not particularly large. The average number of resident members is 229.

The total value of our church property in Mississippi is \$341,145,548. During 1977 we gave a total of \$89,380,667 through our church budgets. Of this figure a total of \$13,925,251 went to mission causes. This is 15.5 per cent of the total.

**Cooperative Program**  
Cooperative Program gifts through the offices of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board amounted to \$7,928,006 during 1977. This amounts to 8.9 per cent of the total.

Continuing the thought of an average resident church membership of 229, statistics show that 68.9 per cent of the Southern Baptist churches in Mississippi have fewer than 300 members. There are only 97 churches in our state that have 1,000 or more members.

The growth factor for the year was .9 of one per cent.

During 1977 we added 12 new churches, but we dropped five and had a net gain of seven.

Missions gifts didn't demand a great deal of us financially during 1977. Southern Baptists across the nation averaged giving \$4.43 last year to foreign mission causes. Thus it took 4,712 of us to support one missionary. We had 2,776 missionaries on the field working with 1,071,922 national pastors. There were 36 persons baptized per foreign missionary last year.

For home missions we averaged \$1.63 during the year. We had 2,830 missionaries, so there was one missionary for 4,623 Southern Baptists. There were 15 professions of faith per home missionary.

**\$140.15 For All Causes**  
During 1977 Mississippi Baptists averaged giving \$140.15 for all causes. This was somewhat better than the Southern Baptist nationwide average of \$129.27.

Of the total missions gifts of Southern Baptists across the nation, 44.5 per cent was channeled through the Southern Baptist Convention. Of these gifts to SBC causes, 95.1 per cent went to four causes. They were the Foreign Mission Board, the Home Mission Board, the six seminaries, and the Radio and Television Commission.

A Baptist student ministry is to be found on 29 college campuses in Mississippi. Of the 27,000 Baptist students on college campuses in the state, 5,350 are active in Baptist Student Union.

On the four Baptist college campuses are 6,166 students. And on all of the campuses in the state there are 550 Baptist students preparing for Christian vocations.

Our four Baptist colleges have operating budgets totaling \$11,510,000. The Baptist Medical Center in Jackson has an annual operating budget of \$24,397,646. Mississippi Baptists participate with Baptists in Tennessee and Arkansas in the operation of Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis,

and this institution has an operating budget of \$95,500,502. The total assets of the Baptist Medical Center are \$51,970,249, and the assets of Baptist Memorial Hospital are \$143,221,000.

### 225 Children

Mississippi Baptists care for an average of 225 children at their Children's Village at any one time. There are three campuses — Jackson, Tate County, and New Albany. The fixed assets amount to \$5,035,880.

Over the past 15 years the Southern Baptist growth factor has been 30.8 per cent. Only the Mormons have exceeded this with a 57.2 per cent growth. The growth has not been enough, however, for on a worldwide basis the Christian population is decreasing percentage-wise. In the past 10 years the world has decreased by 5.6 per cent. This decrease, coupled with a population increase of 708.7 million, means that there are 728.9 million more non-Christians today than 10 years ago.

If Bold Mission Thrust is to achieve much, most of these statistics must be changed drastically. The final one must be brought to a screeching halt and started in the other direction immediately.

We can begin where we are.



## Faces And Places

By Anne Washburn McWilliams

### He Makes The Crooked Straight

Many Mississippians have gone this year on volunteer missions, in the desire to help speed up Bold Mission Thrust. Two weeks ago I spent two days in Wheeling, W. Va., where teams from two Mississippi churches were at work the same week (see story on p. 1.)

It took an hour and a half to fly from Atlanta to Pittsburgh and 2½ hours by bus to go 80 miles on to Wheeling. By then it was 10:30 p.m. The Greyhound station was closed and no taxi stand was in sight. A few lighted signs advertised bars and go-go girls.

A bearded man in blue jeans and straw hat was kissing a blonde leaning against a car. Beside them a little girl lay sprawled across the hood of the car asleep. Around these lounged six or eight men, apparently half-drunk or dope-crazed. Though I felt a surge of compassion, especially for the child, I felt too a small stab of fear, for it was dark and I was a long way from home. But the Lord has never failed me in such a situation. He always send someone at the right time to give me encouragement or direction.

### Guardian Angels

Two others had gotten off the bus with me, an old couple—he was leaning on a cane and she evidently was blind. Both were dressed in black. He showed me a phone booth and told me the number of Yellow Cab. A taxi pulled up and he and his wife got in it and left. I called the number, and in a couple of minutes a cab came for me. It was the same one that had just left, the old couple still in it. I felt as if they were my guardian angels.

Next morning I saw that the motel was on a bluff above the Ohio River. From the balcony I could almost touch a pillar of the famous century-old suspension bridge that was once the longest single span bridge in the world—1010 feet—I read about it in a guide book—and is now a national landmark. (I had read too that Wheeling was the site of the meeting which declared Virginia's secession from the Union unlawful and thus gave birth to the state of West Virginia.)

The Harrisburg, Tupelo team was in the Downtown area. I spent Wednesday with them in Bible school and door-to-door visitation, and Thursday with the First, Yazoo City team in Bible school, puppet shows, and revival meeting.

I had planned to spend Wednesday

night at West Liberty State College, where Jo and Cecil Lee had reserved a room for me. However, Yazoo City had bus trouble (see story), so John Roberts drove me to West Liberty Thursday a.m.

### West Liberty College

The Yazoo City youths and seven adults were staying on fourth floor of Hughes Hall. I spent the morning helping them to make invitations to their services and attending their devotional time led by Danny Johnson, youth director.

The campus, beautiful in summer, must be even more so in the spring with dogwoods and crabapples in bloom against the pines and spruce.

The young people really did a great job with their puppets that night. Many children came and some brought parents. I had planned to leave after the service for Pittsburgh, but I could get no hotel reservation. Pittsburgh was filled with 40,000 Jehovah Witnesses in national convention.

At 9:30 p.m. Thursday I learned that the 4:50 a.m. bus had been discontinued. It looked like I'd miss the 8:18 plane for Atlanta on Friday. Picking up W. R. Storie's tract "Eight Precious Prayer Promises"—it was lying by my Bible—I read: "And I will go before thee, and make the crooked place straight" (Isa. 45:2).

Next morning I took a cab at 5:15 to be sure I'd not miss the 6:05 bus. The station was still closed, and the taxi driver advised me not to wait on the street in the dark. He suggested I stay at the news stand nearby where the scenery (plenty of books "for adults only") might not be pleasant, but he thought it would be safe.

There was a young woman working at the news stand. I learned in brief conversation that she was a Baptist from Jacksonville, Fla. (the same city, I realized, where the city's new Mission Service Corps worker was from).

Last Sunday we were studying Colossians 4:3 and somebody asked the question: Does God open doors for us so that we can communicate with others about Him? Somehow I feel it was not a coincidence that I should have a moment alone with that young woman at 5:30 in the morning.

I did miss the early plane, but got a seat on the next one, the only seat available that day from Pittsburgh to Atlanta.

### Guest Editorial . . .

## Can Baptists Survive Evangelicals?

One of the most intriguing statements we have heard in a long time was recently expressed by William Pinson, new president of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in California. He was speaking to Baptist editors.

Dr. Pinson said: "Southern Baptists survived the ecumenical movement, but they may not survive the evangelical movement."

Editors were so shocked by this assertion from one of Southern Baptists' finest thinkers that they asked for amplification. Space doesn't allow a full treatment of Dr. Pinson's response, but read a few highlights.

The young seminary president said, "fastest-growing seminaries in

America today are non-denominational, evangelical, fundamentalistic seminaries. . . . Parallel institutions are springing up within our own Baptist ranks—Mid-America seminary, Luther Rice seminary, Criswell Bible Institute, etc. . . . 'Success' models in the pastorate are becoming super-stars in American evangelicalism, and among some Southern Baptists."

Dr. Pinson continued some other indicators: "In our growth and bigness as Southern Baptists, some of our agencies have moved away from the people and churches. In our affluence, we are reflecting society and not regulating it. Blue-collar people don't feel as comfortable as they once did with Southern Baptists."

He added: "Our growth rate has slowed down; this is inevitable because of our bigness and our diversity. But as growth rates slow down, frustration mounts. People seek scapegoats. Witch hunts start. Distant leaders become prime targets. Agencies and boards become suspect. Evangelicalism as it has been traditionally known among archfundamentalists, pentecostals and simplistic groups becomes more and more attractive to alienated Baptists. . . . Southern Baptists survived the ecumenical movement; but they may not survive this evangelical movement."

What remedies did Dr. Pinson suggest? He gave two primary remedies: "Highlight the local church"

and "teach doctrine." He said, "denominations don't grow; churches grow. Put the Southern Baptist spotlight back on the local church, all the time reminding that local church of its world mission mandate. Independent, non-aligned, non-committed regional isolationism of the evangelical surge can soon destroy Southern Baptists as a major denomination."

Of doctrinal teaching, Dr. Pinson stated: "Ordination, gifts, Biblical authority and ordinances are vital issues everywhere. Teach them in churches, write about them in state papers, keep them constantly before Southern Baptists."

—Jack Harwell, editor  
The Christian Index (Ga.)

### Guest Opinion . . .

## A Peculiar Question

By Hardy R. Denham Jr., Pastor  
First Baptist Church  
Newton, Mississippi

The noon meal was finished and we pushed back from the table in the private dining room to get down to business. The chairman of the pulpit committee had talked with me several times and now all committee members were present to talk. Their church in another state needed a pastor. I was under consideration and they had come to my town to hear me preach and discuss the matter.

Preachers and pulpit committee members know the usual questions asked by both parties. But in the midst of our Sunday afternoon discussion a peculiar question was posed. One committee member asked, "If we decide that you are the man for our church, and you come to feel the same, would you agree to having a physical checkup at our expense?" Never had I heard that asked by a pulpit committee!

I assured the committee I would be happy to do so and later discovered the reason behind the request. The two previous pastors of that church had developed health problems. One suf-

fered a nervous breakdown which terminated his ministry, and the second had to take extended leaves of absence for health reasons and finally resigned because he could no longer measure up to the demands of the ministry there. These events had obviously made the pulpit committee health-conscious. Furthermore, I gathered that the committee wanted a man to serve their church for an extended period and wanted to be sure he was in good health for the long haul.

There is wisdom in the request that committee made of me. First, serving a church as pastor in these times creates a great degree of strain. There is the old line about the preacher having it made because all he has to do is preach twice on Sunday. But informed churchmen know that the pastor is the chief of staff, administrator of church programs, counselor of the troubled, comforter of the sick and bereaved, fixture for social events, servant for the denomination as well as facing the demands of preparing and preaching to people several times each week. He must smile when he doesn't feel like it,

go when he would like to rest, and often adjust a crowded schedule to respond to some crisis situation. It is only fair that a church know in advance that their new pastor is physically able to do the work.

Second, there is wisdom in the request of that committee because many pastors neglect their physical health. Personally, I had been given a physical just a few months previous to that meeting, but many preachers do not take time for a checkup and do not have these made on a regular basis. Added to this neglect is the fact that some of the brethren feel there is a certain spirituality in being a workaholic. A Baptist publication recently reported a study made of the fastest growing churches in the Southern Baptist Convention. The pastors of some of those churches stated that they work all the time with no time off. These men need to take note of the Master's word to the twelve spoken after an extensive preaching mission. Jesus said, "Come away yourselves to a lonely place, and rest a while" (Mark 6:31). Therefore, pulpit committees may well be doing some men a favor if they

make the request that they have a physical examination

Third, there is wisdom in the request made that afternoon because some pastors have health problems which they conceal. Certainly it is too much to expect of men who have very little privacy to begin with to share everything with a pulpit committee or church. Even the preacher is due the privacy of some aches and pains common to all men. However, if there is a health problem in the making, or already existent, which can diminish usefulness and cut short the term of service, it should be known in advance. For a preacher to withhold such health information from a committee is less than honest, even when the committee is not sufficiently thorough in its investigation to ask about such.

The more I have thought about that question asked by a member of that pulpit committee, the more sensible it seems. Come to think of it—it is not peculiar at all. Churches want men to serve as pastors who are sound in doctrine and mind. What about being sound in body?

## Book Reviews

### WHY I CAN'T SAY I LOVE YOU

by Jack Balswick (Word Books, \$6.95, 141 pp.) Millions of people find it hard to say, "I love you." Even though they feel love they cannot express it openly. If you or your spouse or friends find it hard to keep emotionally in tune, this book will show you are not alone with your problem. The author has based his findings not only on personal experience but also on research in the States and abroad. Many who feel they can't say "I love you" think they can't change and don't try to change. However, Balswick declares that certainly the human personality is capable of a change. His book will show you that you can say these important words.

### START LOVING

by Colleen Townsend Evans (Doubleday, 119 pp., paper, \$2.95) This book tells how the power of loving forgiveness, with the help of God, can change and rebuild lives, as it has Colleen Evans' own life

and the lives of women like Ruth Graham, Julie Nixon Eisenhower, and Corrie ten Boom. Paperback reprint. First published in 1976.

### A HANDFUL OF QUIETNESS

by Harold Rogers (Word Books, 140 pp., \$5.95) This is a book about the importance of the Christian's finding time for quietness and meditation. The author says, "Quietness is the bridge across which one may travel to bring his or her life into harmony with God's intended purpose. . . . He poetically interweaves personal experience with practical suggestions."

### SOLOMON ON SEX

by Joseph C. Dillow (Thomas Nelson, Inc., 194 pp., \$6.95) This book by a counselor and teacher is a new look at the Song of Solomon, the Old Testament book which is a portrait of sexual love in

marriage. Each section of the Song of Solomon is examined verse by verse, as it relates to the book as a whole; for its meaning; and for applications that can be made to marriages today. An appendix dealing with specific sexual problems is included.

### Bangalore, India

— Many patients are attracted to the Baptist Hospital (Bangalore) because of specialty clinics offered in the afternoon, according to Dr. Rebekah A. Naylor, Southern Baptist missionary physician and press representative. Clinics now in operation range from obstetric and well-baby clinics to clinics for specific diseases such as leprosy, tuberculosis, diabetes, leukoderma (a skin disease) and heart disease. Also offered is medical care in the areas of psychiatry, urology and surgery.

## Study of Cities' Rise And Fall To Be Telecast

"Time and the Cities," an in-depth study of why cities and civilizations rise and fall, will be telecast on NBC Sunday, Aug. 27 (1-2 p.m. NYT; repeat of 7/14/74). Alexander Scourby is the narrator.

The special was filmed in Turkey at the sites of eight ancient cities—Ephesus, Pergamum, Sardis, Smyrna, Laodicea, Philadelphia, Thyatire, and Cappadocia, where the caves of Goreme are located.

The program attempts to find in the

tumbled ruins of these places, and in the voices of the past, some hint or clue as to why great cities die. It suggests that exploration of these cities might help modern-day man understand what he must do to help the great cities of the world—which are slowly dying—thrive again.

"Time and the Cities" was produced by the NBC Television Religious Programs Unit in association with the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission.

### Thank You, Lord . . .

## Old Gods Are Torn Down

The Baptist Student Center, where we are presently working, has been growing rapidly this last year. We have had around 100 professions of faith. We have "new-Christian" rallies for the new converts every two months and at present, we are working on a 24-hour survival kit for new Christians. Just last week, a young man trusted Christ.

When told that his commitment to God demanded that he serve, love and obey one God only, he reached up and pulled off his expensive Buddhist medals and dropped them into the hands of our youth director, Tong Chai. We praise God for each one who has come to Christ through the Center. Thank you for your continuing prayers and gifts through the Lottie Moon Offering and Cooperative Program.

—Jack and Glad Martin

Missionaries to Thailand

... THROUGH THE COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

### The Baptist Record

515 Mississippi Street  
Jackson, Miss 39201

Don McGregor Editor  
Tim Nicholas Associate Editor  
Anne McWilliams Editorial Associate

Official Journal of  
The Mississippi Baptist Convention

Robert L. Hamblin  
President  
Earl Kelly  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer

The Baptist Building  
Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205

Board Second Advisory Committee: Vance Smith, Chairman; Sam J. S. Foster, McComb; Gary McCall, Passaic; Lewis Smith, Oxford; David McCall, Jackson; Charles McCall, Hattiesburg.

Subscription \$3.75 a year payable in advance. Published weekly except week of July 4 and August 14. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Miss.

The Baptist Record is a member of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Evangelical Alliance.



# Cauthen Says Record Numbers Show Increasing Willingness

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The reappointment of 14 missionaries who had previously served overseas and the appointment of 19 new missionaries highlighted the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board July meeting.

The reappointments bring the year's total to a record high of 28 and the 19 new missionaries bring the 1978 total to 223, a record for the first seven months of a year.

"All of this bears witness to the increasing tempo of missionary concern and readiness in the light of today's possibilities and challenge," said Executive Director Baker J. Cauthen, in attendance at his first board meeting since April, due to a case of herpes zoster (shingles).

Cauthen said health, family concerns and other problems sometimes cause missionaries to resign, but when the problems are resolved, they frequently apply for reappointment. "We rejoice with these as they return to the field and their missionary careers," he said.

At this time of record reappointments and appointments, Winston Crawley, director of the board's overseas division, says there is also a greater stability of the present missionary force. "Up to this point this year, the resignation rate is the lowest it has been in the last four years," he explained. He looks at it as a sign of stability and says Southern Baptists should be encouraged in that and in the growth of their missionary force. The number of resignations has continued to drop since 1975 while the missionary force has grown.

Board members voted to set a maximum of \$71,181.429 for the 1979 budget. This figure will be used as a guideline in preparing the budget which will be voted on in the October meeting. Cost-of-living supplements for the 1979 budget were also approved.

In other cost-of-living decisions, increases effective Sept. 1 were made for eight countries. Because of inflation and the decline in the value of the American dollar, cost-of-living increases have been made in a total of 49 countries so far this year. The most recent ones were Morocco, France, Japan, Senegal, Upper Volta, Niger, Togo and Benin.

Final allocations for the 1977 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions included \$312,000 for Southeast Asia. Additional allocations to the other seven geographical areas of the world were made in June.

More than \$187,000 was appropriated from relief and hunger funds for efforts in five countries. Two food production projects in the Philippines will receive \$59,985. Another \$5,000 was voted for hunger relief efforts among Haitian refugees in the Bahamas.

Relief funds of \$57,500 were set aside for continued rebuilding and development in Guatemala following the 1976 earthquake there. Funds appropriated for Brazil included \$8,000 for emergency house repairs in Recife, and \$32,142 for poverty relief in slum

areas of Recife. Lebanon will receive \$25,000 for house reconstruction following bombings during that country's civil strife.

The board appropriated \$10,000 to pay the Foreign Mission Board's prorated share in the costs of programs at the Southern Baptist Convention in Atlanta, Ga. Board members also voted to send their president, first and second vice presidents, administrative committee chairman and chairman of the committee on denominational coordination to Nashville, Tenn., to meet with the SBC Executive Committee. They asked these representatives "to urge consideration of reinstating a separate night for the foreign missions program in forthcoming SBC programs."

## MK's Death Strengthens Tie Of Parents To Land

KOUDOUGOU, Upper Volta (BP) — Laura Lee Eitelman's death has brought important changes to Koudougou, Upper Volta, where her Southern Baptist missionary parents serve.

Ray and Patsy Eitelman said they feel more tied to Africa than ever before, "having planted a part of us here." The people of Africa feel a closer bond with the Eitelmans, too.

Miss Eitelman became ill, July 1, at a boarding school in Ivory Coast. She came home to Upper Volta by private plane a few days later. Doctors diagnosed her ailment as hepatitis. She died, July 12, in the Koudougou Hospital.

"We were astonished to find ourselves surrounded by a community of African friends and brothers that came by the hundreds to help us dig the grave and to console us," the Eitelmans said. She was buried beneath a giant tree on the farm operated by Eitelman, an agricultural evangelist. An iron cross marks her grave.

"Their comforting wish expressed in their language is: 'May God put his shade over you,'" the Eitelmans continued.

"In this sunny country shade is their word for grace."

Many of the people had lost children of their own. One man from their Ramongo church lost five children last year.

"We felt a kinship with these people that we had never felt before," the Eitelmans said. Now, after the death, church leaders have come to the Eitelmans to tell them of the sweeping effect their daughter's death has had on the community in establishing the legitimacy of their work.

Before, many critics did not know who they were or had them confused with those who taught there was no God. Those critics saw the Christian community gather around the Eitelmans during their time of need. Many apologized to the church leaders, saying that God was surely with the missionaries.

"Thus in one grand stroke God silenced much opposition and brought glory to himself," the Eitelmans stated. "Laura had said early in life that she wanted to be a missionary. In retrospect, we can see that her dream was fulfilled."

## Churches Unite to Oppose Prayer Amendment in Senate

WASHINGTON (BP) — Bipartisan opposition to planned floor action in the U. S. Senate on Aug. 7 concerning prayer in the schools was formed in Washington. Religious groups also rallied to prevent the success of such action.

Reports indicated U. S. Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., was to propose an amendment to S. 3100, a bill dealing with the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, which would prevent the federal courts from dealing with the question of state or school sponsored prayer in public schools.

Sens. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) and Charles McC. Mathias Jr. (R-Md.) launched bipartisan opposition to combat the measure.

James E. Wood Jr., executive director of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, said in a letter sent to all members of the Senate, "Through the years the Baptist Joint Committee

on Public Affairs... has expressed unalterable opposition to any efforts to circumvent or circumscribe the historic decisions of the U. S. Supreme Court of 1962 and 1963. Any such efforts we view as an abridgment of the First Amendment and in no way as an aid to religion or the religious exercise of prayer."

Wood told Baptist Press, "This is a deplorable strategy for dealing with what must be considered a fundamental constitutional question with regard to the integrity of the First Amendment respecting the establishment of religion."

Similar efforts to avoid federal court involvement in decisions regarding prayer in the schools have been made in the past. None has been successful.

Besides the Baptist Joint Committee, opposition to the possible Helms amendment has been communicated to all senators by a coalition of the Church of the Brethren, the United

Church of Christ, American Jewish Congress, the Lutheran Council in the U.S.A., United Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., Unitarian-Universalist Association, and the United Methodist Church. Opposition also came from Americans United for Separation of Church and State and the American Civil Liberties Union.

## 18,000 Assigned This Summer To Home Mission Fields

By Erin Wait

ATLANTA (BP) — A record number of volunteers — over 18,000 — have been sent or assigned to mission fields this summer by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Don Hammonds, director of the Department of Special Mission Ministries for the board, said volunteer programs have been growing the past four or five years because "the subject of volunteers is prominent." He said the growth has been encouraged by, but is not solely a result of President Jimmy Carter's mission challenge to Southern Baptists.

Through Hammonds' department, 1,446 summer missionaries were appointed and are serving across the United States and Puerto Rico. Many of them received support money from state Baptist conventions and college Baptist Student Unions.

The summer missionaries, college students giving 10 weeks to mission work, serve in a number of areas. Ten evangelism teams lead revivals in Alaska, New York, Colorado and Nevada. In California, a group works with backpackers in Yosemite National Park. In Maryland another group travels with a puppet ministry in the Good Times Wagon. Other students serve in inner-city areas, help with language churches and work on construction crews.

Bold Mission Thrust, the SBC goal to evangelize the world by the year 2000, has resulted in a summer mission team in Kansas and Nebraska preparing the area for new churches. Plans for the 1980 Winter Olympics led another team to Lake Placid, N. Y., to survey and prepare to establish a Baptist church and other ministries.

Sixty-seven high school student volunteers were sent out as Sojourners, students who serve at their own expense for 10 weeks to one year, performing the same types of service as summer missionaries.

Some 450 youth groups and 74 adult

## Grand Canyon College Names President

PHOENIX, Ariz. (BP) — Bill R. Williams has been elected president of Grand Canyon College where he was



Williams, 37, succeeds William R. Hintze who died of a heart attack shortly after playing in the first half of a faculty-student basketball game Nov. 17, 1977.

A native of Scottsdale, a Phoenix suburb, Williams graduated from Grand Canyon College in 1962. He earned masters degrees in mathematics education at Arizona State University and in mathematics at the University of Illinois. He earned his doctorate in mathematics education at Arizona State.

## Illinois Baptists Offer Alternative to Abortion

CARMI, Ill. (BP) — Southern Baptists in Illinois have opened a facility on the campus of the Baptist Children's Home, Carmi, Ill., to care for unwed mothers, including hospitalization and delivery, to give an alternative to abortion.

"We want unmarried youth (of any race or religion) in Illinois to know there's an alternative to abortion, that

we will care for them during their pregnancy, and that also, if desired by the mother, will place the baby with adoptive parents," said Leon Talley, director of social services for the home.

There's no charge for the service, although Talley said the home hopes to recover basic costs, when the mother, her parents, or the father, can afford to pay.

## Crusade Behind Bars Brings 48 to Christ

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent (BP) — A three-day crusade inside the walls of Her Majesty's Royal Prison on the Caribbean Island of Kingstown, St. Vincent, resulted in 48 commitments to Jesus Christ.

Southern Baptist missionary Don Overstreet has worked with inmates at the prison for about a year in a weekly ministry of Bible study, reading, music classes and worship. He also was involved in "Impact 1978"—a crusade brought to the island by Caribbean Baptists and volunteers from Coosa Valley Baptist Church, Gadsden, Ala.

With Impact 1978 at hand, Overstreet explained, "we felt it was time to do something unusual in the prison... something that had never been done in St. Vincent."

The "mini-crusade" went on inside the prison after the island-wide crusade of Bible lessons for more than 500 children, a puppet ministry, gospel singing, and preaching by Vincent Wood, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, Bridgetown, Barbados, took place outside the walls.

"At the end of the three days in the prison, we saw 48 men make their commitment to Christ," said Overstreet. "It was a thrilling sight... as one of the inmates said in his testimony, 'I am praying that this place will become a Christian institution.' The men are now organizing to start Bible studies in each of the cell blocks and have their own leaders, as they are beginning their own church behind bars."

## Second Church to Be Constituted At Moscow

MOSCOW (BP) — The "Second" Baptist Church of Moscow will be constituted at Mitishi, a suburb on the circular highway which rings the capital city, according to European Baptist Press Service.

The new church, which has received approval for registration as a congregation of the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists in the

USSR, has about 200 members. They have applied for a building permit to construct a 400-seat chapel.

Mitishi is about 30 minutes away, by tram or bus, from the Central Baptist Church (First Baptist) which also houses the AUCECB offices. The new church is a "daughter" congregation of the Central Church.

## Alaska Baptists Ready For Capital City Move

ANCHORAGE (BP) — When Alaska's capital moves from Juneau to Willow in 1980, Southern Baptists already will be there with 4.1 acres of land across the highway from the capital site.

Last spring, the land in the sparsely populated area of the future capital was purchased for \$35,000 through the Chugach Baptist Association and the Home Mission Board's Bold Mission Thrust funds.

While Willow itself consists of miles and miles of untouched land inhabited by nothing but bears and beavers, signs of growth appear along parks highway leading north to the capital site.

"We anticipate a tremendous influx of people here. The nearby valleys have been growing 10 to 15 percent each year," said Ed Wolfe, director of the association.

In January, in anticipation of the capital move, a handful of Alaskans formed First Baptist Church, Willow. They began meeting in an old homestead, a tiny, rough log building.

Members pored over plans for a new building. Depending on the plan chosen, the facility will seat either 60 or 80 persons. Members lean toward the larger space. "The way we felt, we should build what we want to begin with... we're growing," reasoned a charter member.

And while the church is still very small, members express confidence for the future.

"We have six members—no seven—a little girl joined the church and we have 12 people every Sunday. Christ started out with 12—and one of them wasn't any good," a member said. "We'll do all right."

## Newsbriefs In The World Of Religion



Beirut, Lebanon — Ghassan Khalaf, a Lebanese Baptist leader, was ordained to the ministry in Beirut recently. In spite of recent armed clashes in Beirut suburbs surrounding the Hadath Baptist Church where services were held, about 250 well-wishers attended, according to Frances (Mrs. J. Wayne) Fuller, Southern Baptist missionary and press representative.

Hong Kong — Hong Kong Baptist College dedicated a new Christian education building recently. On the first floor is an auditorium to be used for chapel and Sunday morning worship services and conferences. Classrooms, offices for chaplain and staff, and a Baptist communication center occupy the upper floors. A student activity center is located in the basement.

New York (RNS) — An acknowledged homosexual minister who was recently reappointed to serve a United Methodist Church here says that "time has shown us that one cannot rely upon Scripture to make absolute judgments about life." Paul Abels, pastor of the Washington Square United Methodist Church, made the comment while being interviewed by Hugh Downs on the ABC-TV program, "Good Morning America." Asked how he responds to people who say the Bible teaches that homosexuality is immoral, Abels said those who believe this should also examine Scriptural statements on women and slavery — "things we found though experience in history are wrong."

Washington, D. C. (RNS) — The U. S. House of Representatives voted 362-8 to authorize a Grandparents Day on the first Sunday after Labor Day as a national observance honoring grandparents. The bill would apply only to an observance for this year. A Senate-passed version of the measure would make Grandparents Day an annual event.

### Revival Results

Unity Church, West (Attala): July 16-21; Edward Gandy of First, Kosciusko, evangelist; Donald Decker of Ackerman Church, leading singing; eight professions of faith, for baptism; B. B. McGee, pastor. (McGee states, "One of those baptized, who made her profession of faith at prayer meeting following the revival, was Lesame Edwards, native of Thailand whose husband was already a member of Unity Church. Several factors entered into her conversion experience. She has been well received by her husband's people and the people of the community and church. She was given a copy of the Gospel of John which Mrs. McGee and I had received from a former missionary to Thailand. Mrs. McGee has been teaching her reading and writing of the English language, using materials secured from the language missions division of the Cooperative Mission Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; and there have been the prayers of the saints, and the preaching of the Word of God.")

### Texas Student Director Dies

DALLAS (BP) — Chester L. (Chet) Reames, director of the division of student work of the Baptist General Convention of Texas, was killed in an auto accident on a Dallas expressway, Aug. 3.

Reames, 46, was known to thousands of college and university students involved in the 92 Baptist Student Unions coordinated by the student work division. The Texas Baptist executive board elected Reames as student director in 1974.

A native of Altus, Okla., Reames was involved with Baptist Student ministries for more than 20 years. He succeeded W. F. Howard, Texas student director for 32 years. Reames had served with Howard for 10 years as an associate.

### Upcoming At Gulfshore

Following are upcoming Mississippi Baptist Convention program-related events at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, plus a listing of groups holding reservations for other times. Unfilled dates at Gulfshore are available for church groups.

Senior Adult Retreat: August 14-18, Church Training;  
Church Brotherhood Leadership Training Retreat: August 18-19, Brotherhood;  
Church Staff Development Conference: August 21-23, Church Administration;

Music-Leadership-Adult: August 24-26, Church Music;  
Young Adult Bible Conference: Sept. 1-3, Sunday School;  
Louisiana State BSU, Istrouma Baptist Church, and FBC, Long Beach; Sept. 8-9;

Keesler AFB Protestant Chaplain's group retreat: Sept. 15-16;  
USM BSU retreat: Sept. 22-23; Edgewater Baptist Church: Sept. 29-30; FBC, Jackson singles: Oct. 5-6.  
Church World Service disaster relief group: Oct. 10-12; Keesler AFB Protestant Chaplain's group: Oct. 13-14; University Baptist Church, Hattiesburg, and Gulf Coast Association WMU Prayer Retreat: Oct. 20-21; Preschool Children's Leadership Retreat: Oct. 27-28.

Gulfshore manager Frank Simmons reported that both Christmas and New Year's weeks are as yet unscheduled.

## Real Robot, Tract II, Greets VBS Children

ALEXANDRIA, La. (BP) — Children who attended Vacation Bible School at College Drive Baptist Church, Alexandria, La., probably thought they walked onto the set of a space movie.

They were greeted by a real, live (well, real) robot, "Tract II," who also answered their "yes and no" questions.

"When the kids come to Bible school, Tract II welcomes them in opening assembly," says the robot's inventor, James Fulton, pastor of the church. "Then they go to their classes for Bible study. When they come back to another assembly, Tract II goes over the material again. That kind of reinforcement is very important—especially from a robot."

Fulton has always been an electronic whiz. At 16 he built a communications satellite so sophisticated a science fair judge disqualified it because he felt no one Fulton's age could have built it himself.

"I use a light beam and his photo cell to demonstrate how sin interrupts fellowship with God," Fulton says. "A flashlight activates the cell, and a pinwheel turns. But when a card—sings in the way, the 'fellowship' is broken and the wheel stops."

Like all inventors, Fulton is still improving his creation. He hopes to put hands on the ends of Tract II's arms so he can take up the offering!



## Revival Dates

**First, Baldwin:** Aug. 13-18; L. Gordon Sansing, pastor of Arrowood Church, Meridian, evangelist; Tom Larrimore, Jackson, music evangelist; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.; services during the week will be 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Leo Barker, pastor.

**New Hope Church, Foxworth:** Aug. 13-18; Hiram Campbell of Gretna, La., and a former pastor at New Hope, evangelist; David McArthur, music evangelist from Lacey's Spring, Ala., in charge of the music. (Sunday morning service at 11 on Aug. 13 will be followed by a covered-dish luncheon for all present; The Sunday evening service begins at 7:30. The services during the week are at 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.)

**Bethel (Jones):** Aug. 13-17; Al Fike, Leakesville, evangelist; Donald Gatlin, music evangelist; services 7:30 p.m.; Danny Stringer, pastor.

**Big Ridge, Biloxi:** Family Life Revival; Aug. 13-16; J. Clark Hensley, Jackson, director of the Christian Life Commission, speaker; services nightly 7:15; regular hours on Sunday; Max Julian, directing the music; Robert M. Carlisle, pastor.

**Calvary Church (Simpson):** Aug. 20-25; services at 7 p.m.; Sunday at 11 a.m. followed by dinner on the grounds and afternoon service; Howard Aultman, evangelist; Dallas Rayborn, leading the music. M. L. Graham, supply pastor.

**Darlove Church:** Aug. 14-18; Nelson Fortenberry of Magee, evangelist; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wasson of Greenville, directing the music; services at 6:30 p.m.; homecoming on Sunday, Aug. 13, with former pastors bringing the messages and dinner served in fellowship hall.

**First Church, Saltillo:** Aug. 13-18; services at 7:30 p.m.; Benny Jackson, evangelist from Memphis, preaching; Price Harris, music evangelist from Shreveport, La., singer; Rex Yancey, pastor.

**First, Shannon:** Aug. 20-25; at 7:30 p.m.; Guy Reedy, First Church, Water Valley, evangelist; Wayne Baggett, First Church, Baldwin, music director; Mrs. John G. Wiygul, Shannon, organist; Mrs. Edward Filgo, Shannon, pianist; Ira Bright, pastor.

**Agricola Church, Agrícola (George County):** Aug. 13-18; Sunday services at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; weekday at 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Lawrence Baylot, pastor, First Church, Jennings, La., and a former pastor of Agrícola, evangelist; Haskell Dunn, music director, First Church, London, Ky., and a former music director of Agrícola, music evangelist; W. Bryce Evans, Pastor.

**Society Hill Church (Jefferson County):** Aug. 6-11; week days at 10 a.m. with lunch served afterwards and service at 7 p.m.; Jimmy Craft, Gulfport, evangelist; Ray Henry, pastor.

**Weathersby Church (Simpson):** August 13-18; Charles Ray Burnham, pastor, Kennedy Springs Church, evangelist; John Coleman, music director; Beverly Jones, pianist; services nightly at 7:30; homecoming August 13 beginning with the 11 o'clock service followed with "dinner on the grounds" and afternoon service; Johnny Jones, pastor, invites all members, former members, former pastors, and friends to attend.

**Briel Avenue Church, Natchez:** August 13-18; James A. Foster, pastor; Clarence Cutrell, consultant, Stewardship Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Evangelist; Colvin Mizell, music evangelist; services at 7:30 p.m.

**Russell Church:** Aug. 27-Sept. 1; Sunday morning, 10:45; Sunday night, 7; week nights, 7:30; Ray Crumpton, pastor of Fairview Church, Ashland, Ky., evangelist; L. Green, music director; Mrs. Edna Massey, organist; Mrs. Ann Calcote, pianist; Charles Griffith, pastor.

**Salem Church:** August 13-18; Clark W. McMurray, First Church, Pascagoula, evangelist; Bobby Stubbs, Jackson, music director at Salem, song leader; Harry F. Jones, pastor, Sunday, Aug. 13, homecoming, with dinner in the Fellowship Hall.

**Airport (Grenada):** Aug. 13-18; Bill Fox, former Mississippi pastor, now in West Virginia, evangelist; J. E. Canterbury, leading music; Robert Hicks, accompanist; services at 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Harry Sartain, pastor.

**Clear Springs (Yalobusha):** Aug. 13-18; at 7:30 p.m.; Jerry Surret, pastor, preaching; P. L. Liles, music director, leading singing.

**Hebron (Yazoo):** Aug. 13-18; homecoming on Sunday, with dinner on the ground; during week at 10:30 a.m. and 8 p.m.; Wesley P. Mile, pastor of Lake Church, evangelist; Gary Black, pastor of Bethlehem Church, singer; George W. Hutto, pastor.



## Chapel Bells Are In Brazil

The Chapel Bells from First Church, Starkville, arrived at the Jackson airport, above, at noon on July 24, and rushed their luggage through the X-ray machine as they departed on mission tour to Brazil. Truitt Roberts, at right in bottom photo, has been directing the young handbell ringers as they performed in Recife, Campina Grande, Natal, Joao Pessoa, Maceio, Rio de Janeiro, Brasilia, and Belem. They will return on Aug. 10. Another group from First, Starkville, was in Gardiner, Mont. July 27-Aug. 5. Around 60 people, representing 15 families, went to Montana to help build a church, conduct surveys, help with promotion for revival and lead in services. Raymond Lloyd is the Starkville pastor.

## POWERLINE

### ACCEPTANCE OF FRIEND'S DEATH

*A hard lesson for anyone to learn is that the chief ingredient of overcoming sorrow is acceptance.*

*I lost my best friend in a car wreck and I am having trouble realizing that she is dead. I keep thinking of things I want to say to her and things that we did together. Please tell me how to realize that she is gone.*

The only way to treat such a loss is to accept it as real. Sometimes our unconscious minds decide to continue as though that event did not happen. This tends to preserve a fantasy that we still have some choice in the matter, and the result is a great deal of unhappiness.

You must make an adjustment something like an individual born with a deformity must make. He either spends all his life being resentful or he accepts the limitations and turns them into a positive asset. The key is acceptance.

In the practical realm you would do well to branch out into some activities that will help you make new friends. Of course, no one can take the place of your friend, but you must not become isolated. Get involved in activities at school, at church, in your community. Reach out to others and give them some of the friendship that you have stored away. This is how you will honor your lost friend—by sharing yourself with others who need you, too.

A weekly radio program for youth broadcast nationwide by So. Baptist Radio-TV Commission. For information write POWERLINE, Fort Worth, Texas 76116. Dr. J. P. Allen, Director, Audience Response.

## NAMES IN THE NEWS

**Van East** and daughter Lou Anne East of Amory, Miss., members of First Church, Amory, have just participated in the third annual Baptist Scouting Conference at Philmont Scout Ranch and Explorer Base in the Rocky Mountains in northeastern New Mexico. East is a pharmacist, Scoutmaster, active in his District and Council. He is working with youth on the God and Country program and at Philmont served as a workshop resource member. He is the local Council Chairman of the Association of Baptists for Scouting Chapter. The purpose of this workshop type of conference was: SCOUTING— "A Resource Program for our Churches' Ministry with Youth and Families."

**Jay Henderson**, son of Jerry Henderson, pastor of Petal-Harvey Church, Petal, and Mrs. Henderson, represented the Petal-Harvey Church and the Church Training Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, in Youth Bible Drill competition at Glorieta, New Mexico, recently.

**Cassandra Blackwell**, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Preston Blackwell of Petal, represented the same church and the Church Training Department in the Youth Bible Drill competition at Ridgcrest Assembly in North Carolina.

A sermon delivered before the congregation of Louisville, Kentucky's St. Matthews Church by pastor J. Altus Newell was selected for inclusion in a just released Broadman Press book. The sermon, "Going Both Miles of the Christian Life," appears in *Award Winning Sermons, Volume 2*. It is one of 15 selected for publication.

cation from about 300 received by Broadman editors in an annual award winning sermon competition. Newell was recognized during the SBC Pastors' Conference in Atlanta. He is a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary. Born in Meridian, he is the son of Mrs. Altus Newell, Sr. and the late Altus Newell. He married Diane Barthel of Rayville, La. and they have two daughters.

**Kara Blackard**, pastor of Beulah Church, Union County, has been named for inclusion in *Outstanding Young Men of America*, an award given in recognition of outstanding professional achievement, superior leadership ability, and exceptional service to the community. He and his wife, Linda, and their two sons live at Myrtle. Blackard's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Blackard.

**Mississippi graduates** from New Orleans Seminary who received degrees in May and who have not previously been listed in the Baptist Record, are: **Robert Wright**, of Missouri, Master of Divinity degree, pastor of Northward Church, Gulfport; **James Bradford** of Ohio, Master of Divinity degree, pastor of Shiloh Memorial Church, Kiln, at time of graduation; **Zeno Randall Wells** of Pascagoula, Master of Church Music, minister of music in First Church, Cordele, Ga.; **L. D. Brown, Jr.**, Rana Lara, Master of Divinity, pastor of Lees Creek Church, Bogalusa, La.; **Hugh**

**Valentine Harbort, Jr.**, of South Carolina, pastor of New Zion Church, Liberty; **Juanita Barnes Willis** of Hattiesburg, Master of Religious Education, choir president, mission president, street block mission and program chairman at New Ebenezer Church, Hattiesburg; **Pamela Faye Cantrell**, native of Clinton, Master of Religious Education, children's choir director; and **Jimmie Thomas Beville** of Pascagoula, Master of Religious Education, minister of education and youth at Lakeshore Church, Shreveport, La.

**Paula Daymond** of the summer staff at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly must have a *Baptist Record* record. In last week's issue she had her picture used two times—each with a different spelling of her name—each wrong. Her name should be correct this time.

**Mr. and Mrs. George Flowers Smith** of 1021 Bellevue Place, Jackson, will on Aug. 17 celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary. Their wedding ceremony, said by J. M. Morse, on Aug. 17, 1913, was held in the bride's home on West Capitol Street. The bride was formerly Nora Elizabeth Weathersby, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thos. J. Weathersby.

## Staff Changes

**B. B. McGee**, pastor of Unity Church, Attala County, has announced his retirement, effective Aug. 15. He and Mrs. McGee will live in Sturgis, and he will continue to serve North Union Church.

**Barry Corbett** has resigned as minister of youth at First Church, Kosciusko, in order to enter New Orleans Seminary.

**Curtis Reese** will be leaving Yockanookany Church in order to enter Mid-America Seminary in Memphis.

**Jimmy Craft** is the new youth director for Bayou View Church, Gulf Coast. An evangelist, he will be serving part time. He is married to the former Jackie Cox and they have two children. The pastor is Tom Gautier.

**Mrs. Jeanette Whiddan** is the new secretary at Bel Aire Church, Gulf Coast.

**Commission Road Church**, Gulf Coast, has called **David Lee** as pastor. Lee goes from Zion Church, Pontotoc. He is married to the former Sherry McClendon of Gulfport. They have two sons. Lee will be attending the seminary in New Orleans in the mornings. The church is in new facilities.

**Tally Rayborn** has resigned as pastor at Pass Christian. Richard Bradley is interim pastor. Rayborn has accepted a call to Waveland Church.

**Gregg Thomas** has accepted a call to North Winona Church, Winona, as minister of music and youth. He goes there from a similar position at Priceville Church, Tupelo. Gregg is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Horace Thomas of Greenwood, formerly of Fulton. He attended Itawamba Junior College and will be a student this fall at Mississippi Delta Junior College.

**Huel Moseley** submitted his resignation to Forest Church Sunday, July 23. He plans to enter the Mid-America Seminary, Memphis, Tenn. At Forest he was minister of music and youth.

**L. C. Anthony** has resigned as pastor of Dublin Church, Prentiss, to accept the pastorate of Northside Church, Vicksburg, MS.

**Livingstone, Zambia**—The Zambia mission of the Southern Baptist Convention's Foreign Mission Board has given approval to a pilot project in urban evangelism for Livingstone, a city of about 43,000 population. Lonnie Turner (Kentucky), general evangelist, said the program would have an emphasis on personal witnessing, leadership training, programs emphasizing Bible study and other ministries such as literacy classes.

## Baptists Will Translate Bible Into Kurdish

WASHINGTON, D. C. (RNS) — A group of Southern Baptists has formed an organization to raise funds to translate Scriptures into languages which are not yet written.

Called Southern Baptists for Bible Translation, the organization has raised \$10,000 to help with the completion of the New Testament into the Kurdish language being done by the Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Its objectives are similar to those of the Wycliffe Bible Translators to reach "every human being with the Gospel by the year 2,000, including 200 million who speak an unwritten language without a verse of Scripture."

Worth C. Grant is president. Grant is a former Southern Baptists missionary to Japan and has been on the staff of the Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Northeastern United States Regional Office in Washington for the past seven years.

"Our mission, as I see it," he said, "is to provide Southern Baptist churches who share our doctrinal position and concern for Bibleless tribes, the opportunity to become intimately involved in the thrilling task of Bible translation at the local church level."

Regarding the Kurdish translation project, Terry Todd, who has worked the past half-dozen years with Wycliffe Bible Translators on a Kurdish translation of the New Testament, told a gathering of the group in Washington that "although 10-12 million Kurdish people live within 1,000 miles of Jerusalem, they still do not have the Word in their language after 2,000 years of church history."

## What will forever be like?

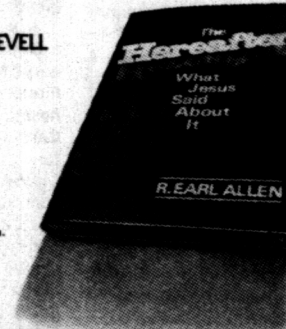
What does the future—eternity—hold for each of us? THE HEREAFTER, by R. Earl Allen, answers the questions every Christian has about life after death. Through a comprehensive examination of the Scriptures, the author outlines Jesus Christ's teachings about heaven and hell, resurrection and salvation, judgment and the Second Coming.

THE HEREAFTER is an informative overview of the reality and scope of life after death, and will provide hope and encouragement to every reader.

\$5.95 (Cloth)

FLEMING H. REVELL COMPANY

Visit your BAPTIST BOOK STORES or order from the Baptist Book Store or Mail Order Center serving you.



## Vance Havner writes of the hope that can be yours.

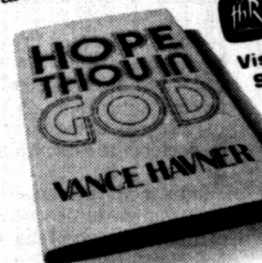
Vance Havner knows from experience that we can use our faith to face difficult times. In his new book of meditations, HOPE THOU IN GOD, Reverend Havner writes of the insights that God has given him.

Three years after the death of his beloved wife, Sara, the author shares a bright view of his later years alone. His uplifting faith will make all Christians realize that illness, agony, and death are really "passports to paradise."

\$5.95 (Cloth)

FLEMING H. REVELL COMPANY

Visit your Baptist Book Store or order from the Baptist Book Store or Mail Order Center serving you.



BAPTIST BOOK STORES

## Can Christians ignore the law?

Have you ever heard someone rationalize their actions by saying, "I'm living under Grace, not under the law?"

In LAW AND LIBERTY, noted pastor and author Alan Redpath demonstrates that spiritual truths are everlasting. The Ten Commandments form the basis for the fundamental relationships in life—with God, with family, with society, and with oneself.

Redpath gives meaning and practicality to each commandment in its bearing on contemporary living. LAW AND LIBERTY is a Christian's guide to reconciling the law of Moses with the freedom of Christ.

\$5.95 (Cloth)

FLEMING H. REVELL COMPANY

Visit your Baptist Book Store or order from the Baptist Book Store or Mail Order Center serving you.



## HEADQUARTERS

FOR ALL TYPES OF

School & Church Furniture

• Complete stock of chairs, tables, desks and furnishings for Classroom, Library, Sunday School, Auditorium Cafeteria and every School and Church use.

EVERYTHING FOR THE SCHOOL AND CHURCH

MISSISSIPPI School Supply Co. JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI



# First, Greenwood Offers Mission Study For Lunch

By Anne McWilliams

"A little missionary education is always better than none," Helen Johnson said. Mrs. Johnson is program chairman for a mission study group that meets at noon the second Friday of every month at First Church, Greenwood.

"Many women who could not take part in a mission study like this at another time can come to a luncheon meeting," she added.

Marjean Patterson, executive director, Mississippi WMU, says she believes this is the only WMU study group exactly like it in the state.

It is different in that the women have been hearing special guest missionary speakers every month rather than studying the program in a missions magazine. (Later they may decide to do both.)

It is different in that it has become an unusual means of outreach. Though the group is called the Business Women's Study Group (because business women can come on their lunch hour) the name is not exactly accurate. Others besides business women attend. Outreach has included some who are not regular church-goers. Also, women from other denominations are invited, as well as women from other Baptist churches in the city of Greenwood. Young and old may come.

It is different in that it meets during the noon hour, from 12 to 1, with both lunch and program confined to that one hour.

At a quarter to 12, Mrs. Lillian Williford, WMU director, is seeing to last minute details in the church dining hall. She has brought a large bouquet of roses for the speakers' table. At five minutes to 12, people start coming in to pick up their lunches and find seats. Mrs. James Bealle has prepared the meals, as usual, for \$2 each, with the provision that she have the number of reservations by the preceding day.

The menu for the day: tomato, stuffed with chicken salad; potato chips; pimento cheese sandwich; white cake with lemon icing.

Curtis Burge, the new pastor at First, Greenwood, and his wife are among the 30 guests. So is M. C. Johnson, director of missions for Leflore County and husband of Helen Johnson. Three mother-daughter couples are present; one Methodist

has come with a friend. Barbara Murff is there, to sing.

At 12:15 Mrs. Williford introduces the guest speaker, Cornell Daughtry BSU director at Mississippi Delta Junior College at Moorhead. Daughtry has been invited to talk about the relationship between BSU and missions.

"The greatest mission field in America today is the college campus," he says. He tells how the BSU organization seeks to minister to the students, and how the students in turn seek to reach out to others.

"One of the fastest growing colleges

in the state percentage wise is Mississippi Delta Junior College, and approximately 70 per cent of the students there are Baptists," he says. Daughtry is the only full-time campus minister there, though other denominations have part time ministries.

The speaker quotes Jimmy Allen, president, saying that "the education system in America is primarily pagan." He continues, "Technical knowledge is usually instilled in the college student, but sometimes the student misses out on getting any theological knowledge. One purpose of BSU is to

help conserve the religious training the young people had before they came to college."

He says that the BSU on his campus has a mission ministry every week in two camps at Parchman; they have regular Bible study on campus; they sponsor Christian vocation workshops, religious concerts, pre-marriage seminars. They have a music group, the New Jerusalem Railroad. A project they chose for spring holidays was for five students to go to a university in Indiana and try to find enough people to begin a Bible study that could become a nucleus for a BSU.

Daughtry says that 12 per cent of the students at Mississippi Delta are black. "We want them to feel welcome to participate in our BSU activities."

Following Daughtry's speech, Mrs. Johnson announces that the speaker next month will be a summer missionary. Previously the group has heard foreign missionaries and home missionaries, including Mrs. Frank Ruiz, worker with the Spanish-speaking.

If the speakers are to be given an honorarium — and all of the Greenwood speakers have — there needs to be an item in the church budget for this, one of the members has observed. Until last month the luncheon group has not had any mission projects, but then they heard a speaker tell about missions in Barbados, and about Mississippi women who would be going to the island to teach lessons in sewing for retarded children. Spontaneously, they took up an offering to buy a sewing machine to send to Barbados. Mike Carson, owner of Singer in Greenwood, let them have a new \$200 machine for \$90.

The Greenwood Business Women's Mission Study Group had its beginning last October. While the church council was investigating the possibility, a survey was made to find interested persons. Mrs. Carolyn Ellis presented a list of 15 names to the church council. All 15 had said they would come to luncheon meetings. Attendance has grown to 30 or more.

Mrs. Ellis, who is telephone chairman, says, "If others interested want to start a luncheon group, they must be prepared to contact the people individually to get them to make reservations. I made more than 30 phone calls the week of July 14. If anyone had approached me and said, 'Will you make 30 phone calls each month for our noon luncheon?' I would have said, 'No way.' I just get started on the phone and get interested and don't realize how many calls I am making!" She feels the effort is definitely worthwhile, though, and says she would encourage others to start similar study groups.



Cornell Daughtry, left, BSU director, Mississippi Delta Junior College, was missionary speaker at First Greenwood on July 14. Shown with him are Curtis Burge, pastor, First, Greenwood; Mrs. Burge; Mrs. Helen Johnson, program chairman for the Business Women's WMU study group; Mrs. Lillian Williford, WMU director; and Mrs. Carolyn Peeples Ellis, telephone chairman for the noonday study group.



Mike Carson, owner of a Singer business in Greenwood, presents a sewing machine to Carolyn Ellis, representative of the Business Women's noonday mission study group at First, Greenwood. Carson sold the new machine for half price when he learned it would be used in a mission project on Barbados.

## Holts Return, On Furlough From Togo

Rex and Sherry Holt, missionaries to Togo, West Africa, have arrived in the States for furlough.

Sherry's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Puckett, reside in Sledge, and are members of the First Baptist Church. Rex is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rex Holt, Sr. of Bay, Ark. He served as pastor of the Fisher Street Church, Jonesboro, Ark. prior to appointment by the Foreign Mission Board.

The Holts have been serving in Lome, Togo for one and one-half years. They arrived in Memphis, August 2, for furlough and will be returning January 10, 1979.

The DeSoto Baptist Association will be providing a home for the Holts during their furlough. Their address is: Rev. and Mrs. Rex Holt, 5746 Cherokee Dr., Walls, MS. 38680 (Phone number 601-781-2227).

Holt states, "We are taking Romans 1:11-12 as our verses for furlough. In these verses Paul shares his deep longing to be with his fellow Christians in Rome. He wants to share something with them and then hastens to add, 'That is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine.' We are eager for this time of mutual encouragement with you."



Rex and Sherry Holt

Lusaka, Zambia — War refugees from Angola and Zaire located in a government-sponsored village near Solwezi have received from Southern Baptists 11 corn-shelling machines as part of a program to make the settlement self-supporting. The Foreign Mission Board made \$5,000 available for purchase of the machines. Other religious and government groups are assisting the 13,000 refugees in the settlement.

## Southern Baptists Begin Haiti Work

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — After four years of communication between the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board and the Baptist Convention of Haiti, the Caribbean island country has become the 92nd nation with Southern Baptist missionary work.

Haitian Baptists approached the board, asking to establish a cooperative work. Charles W. Bryan, the board's secretary for Middle America and the Caribbean, said that work was not begun immediately because American Baptists were already "doing a good job there and we needed to develop other work in the Caribbean."

He said Haiti would need experienced missionaries because of the "spiritual and physical needs of the people and the unique relationship with the Haitian Convention." Three years later, after survey work and a search for the experienced missionaries, the board approved entering Haiti.

Jack and Doris Hancox, former Southern Baptist missionaries to France and French-speaking Ivory Coast, will be helping the Haitian Convention in church development. They resigned from active missionary service in December 1974. In the interim, Hancox has been pastor of Falmouth Baptist Church, Fredericksburg, Va.

Bryan considers entry into Haiti as significant in the lives of Southern Baptists since the physical needs of that country have concerned them for years. A well drilling project that will put 10 wells in operation in 10 different communities soon will start with funds appropriate this year by the board.

Southern Baptists have conducted several survey trips into the republic which includes 10,741 square miles — or a third of the entire island. The 5 million population is predominantly

black. French is the official language, but Creole is spoken. Most of the population works in agriculture — cacao, coffee, bananas and sugar.

Roman Catholicism and Voodooism are predominant, but "Haiti probably has more evangelical missions operating within its borders than any other area of the Caribbean," according to a December 1973 board report. "Haitian Christians," it noted, "are very evangelistic in their personal witness."

First Church, Canton, Louis Smith, pastor, dedicated a new piano on Sunday evening, July 23. Mrs. Irene Martin of Forest, keyboard specialist with the Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, gave a piano concert.

## WCTU Group To Meet Aug. 28

The Iota Sigma Chapter of the Mississippi Woman's Christian Temperance Union will have a meeting with Mildred Brashier, 767 Arlington St., Jackson, Monday, Aug. 28.

The WCTU program continues to make contributions to community, state, and national affairs through group information on current problems. Major emphasis is given to alcohol education, and prevention of alcoholism, and to the study of the drug problem, and tobacco.

Strong emphasis is given to better law enforcement, health and safety, exercise of Christian responsibility, international relations, and social services.

"New members are welcome," states Mrs. Juarez Johnson of Jackson.

Smart fakers are nimble at being believable; so don't be amazed if you find you're deceived.

## Kindergarten/Day Care Directors

The Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department is up-dating its mailing list.

Please advise us of your correct address.

Clip the form below, complete and mail to:

Rev. Leon Emery  
P. O. Box 530  
Jackson, MS 39205

We do have a Kindergarten/Day Care in our church.

CHURCH

DIRECTOR

ADDRESS

CITY

ZIP

PHONE NUMBER

## Missionary News

Robert and Flora Hollifield, missionaries to Italy, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Via Antelao, 14, 00141 Rome, Italy). They are natives in Mississippi.

Mr. and Mrs. James V. Hudson Jr., missionaries, have transferred from the Philippines to Korea (address: Yoido P. O. Box 45, Seoul 150, Korea). He was born in Jackson, Miss., and also lived in Monroe, La., while growing up.

John and Ruby Parker, missionaries to Chile, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: c/o Kenneth Parker, 514 Everest, San Antonio, Texas 78209). He is a native of Lucedale.

Harry and Frances Raley, missionaries to Taiwan, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 715 E. Northside Dr., Jackson, Miss. 39206). She was born near Moorhead, Miss.

Thomas and Hazel Barron, missionaries to Indonesia, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Box 46, Bukittinggi, West Sumatra).

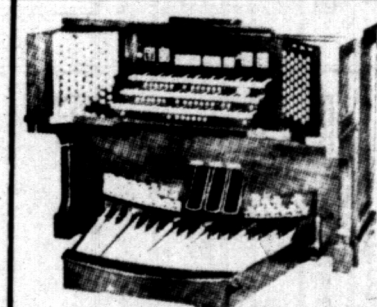
Marvin and Jean Fitts, missionaries to Peru, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 3277 Crete, Memphis, Tenn. 38111). He is a native of Pontotoc County.

Milton and Nannette Lites, missionaries to Taiwan, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 4804 Stanley, Fort Worth, Texas 76115). He is a former music director at First, Picayune, MS.

Stanley and Glenna Stamps, missionaries to Nicaragua, may be addressed at Apartado 5776, Managua, Nicaragua.

FOR SALE: 26 - 13 ft. pews; 9 - 12 ft. pews; 2 - 4 ft. pastor's seats; pulpit and communion table. Call Temple Baptist Church, Pascagoula, 588-3437 or 588-3374.

**NEW AND USED BUSES**  
Complete Stock from 12 to 84 Passengers  
**BUS SUPPLY CO., INC.**  
Hwy. 98 E.—P.O. Box 502  
McComb, MS 39468  
Phones: Office (601) 684-2900  
Home (601) 684-5874 or 684-6876



**ROSEBERRY PIANO HOUSE**  
134 E. Front St., Hattiesburg, Ms 39401 (601) 563-0245  
Free Delivery Special Church Terms Available

**OLD BIBLES REBOUND**  
A price, binding and style to meet every need. Quality workmanship guaranteed. Write for illustrated price folder.  
"Internationally known specialists"  
**NORRIS BOOKBINDING CO.**  
Box 305-C — Greenwood Miss. 39300

**FIBERGLASS**  
• STEEPLES  
• WALL CROSSES  
• STAINED FIBERGLASS WINDOWS  
• BAPTISTRIES  
• BAPTISTRY HEATERS  
Write for free color brochure  
*Fiberglass Specialties*  
A/C 214 657-6524 Box 931 Henderson, Texas 75652

**HEARING IS MY CONCERN**  
Helping people has been my concern for 14 years. I have helped thousands to hear again. If you have a hearing problem, see your doctor for medical clearance. Then contact the specialist you can trust for hearing evaluation and proper fitting. Home visit no obligation. Write Ray Leach, Hearing Aid Specialist, 708 E. Fortification, Jackson, MS or call 352-4811. Natchez office: 105 S. Pearl, Phone 445-8322; Vicksburg office: 1117-23 Washington St., Phone 636-5541.

**Mississippi Valley Gas Company**  
The Clean Energy People

**Tarbell's for 1978-79: the teacher's aid.**  
The all-new 74th annual volume of **TARBELL'S TEACHER'S GUIDE** is now available. Through the years, this guide has been the mainstay of a dynamic church school program for teachers of all denominations who use the International Sunday School Lessons. The 1978-79 edition is expertly edited by Dr. Frank S. Mead, and includes these features:  
• Parallel texts from 1977 and 1978  
• Practical guidelines for teachers  
• Discussion topics for adults and youth  
• Historical and geographical backgrounds  
\$5.95 (Cloth)  
Visit your **BAPTIST BOOK STORES**  
or order from the Baptist Book Store or Mail Order Center serving you.

**NOW AVAILABLE TO AGES 64 AND OVER**  
**Guaranteed Issue**  
All pre-existing conditions covered  
Immediately—No waiting period  
**MEDICARE SUPPLEMENT**  
(Policy Form 376)  
Helps pay what Medicare doesn't pay  
Benefits for  
• Hospital • Doctor • Surgeon • Nurse • Skill Nursing Home or Extended Care Facility  
• Prescription Drugs & Medicines at Home  
For Full Information, Fill out coupon and Mail To:  
**Equitable Life and Casualty Insurance Co.**  
**E. F. Hutton Insurance Agency**  
P. O. Box 16628  
Jackson, MS. 39206  
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Underwritten by Equitable Life And Casualty Ins. Co. Salt Lake City, Utah BR2





## Just For The Record



G.A.'s of HIGHLAND, VICKSBURG held day camp recently. They studied Mexico, displayed items from Mexico, and cooked Mexican food. They also shared a time of testimony.

## Frank Rush Retires After 30 Years In The Pastorate

Beat Line Church, Rt. 4, Philadelphia, honored Frank W. Rush with a reception Sunday, July 30, at 2 p.m., in recognition of his retirement from the active pastorate.

The church presented Mrs. Rush a corsage and Rush a boutonniere at the Sunday School hour.

In the afternoon the church gave a plaque to the pastor and his wife in recognition of their 4½ years of service. Also an antique brass floor lamp and many individual gifts were given. (One of the gifts was a pair of overalls — which might mean someone thought hard work was just about to begin!)

On retirement July 30, Rush completed 30 years in the active pastorate, most in Mississippi. Pastorates he has served include Walkers Chapel, Fultondale, Ala.; Enterprise; Trinity, Vicksburg; DeKalb; Mashulaville near Macon; Bay Springs near Porterville; and Beat Line near Philadelphia.

On a part-time basis he has served Union Hill, Rt. 4, DeKalb, for 20 years; West Kemper, Rt. 1, DeKalb, for 4 years; and Bluff Springs, Rt. 2, DeKalb, for 10 years.

At the time of retirement, he was serving Beat Line every Sunday, and Union Hill and Bluff Springs each one Sunday a month at 9 a.m.

Rush holds Bachelor's degrees from Samford University, Birmingham, and New Orleans Seminary, and a Master of Education degree from Mississippi State University with a major in guidance and counseling.

Mr. and Mrs. Rush also taught school for several years in Kemper County.

Denominational activities have included several terms as associational moderator, president of pastor's conference, and member of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. He is at present a member of the Pastoral Aid Committee of the Convention Board.

The Rushes plan to continue living at their home, Rt. 2, DeKalb, Ms. He says: "I don't have any hobbies. I'm just going to set a spell. Then maybe I'll play a game or two of checkers or chess. Oh yes, I did take up one hobby. I realized a life-long ambition when I obtained my private pilot's license in May of this year."

Rocky Point Church, Leake County, dedicated its new organ Sunday night, July 30. The instrument had been bought three weeks previously. Mrs. Marie Carroway, wife of the late Richard Carroway, played the organ during the dedication service. Curtis E. James is pastor; Mickey Henderson is choir director.

## Pine Grove Pastor Retires

Pine Grove Church, Ellisville honored their pastor, B. F. Smith and Mrs. Smith on July 23 on his retirement from the pastorate.



A reception in the Smith's honor was held in the afternoon. Gifts included an engraved silver gallery tray from the church, a book of letters from friends and former students in several states; a suit, shirt and tie from the deacons; a panama hat from the Senior Men's Bible class; several gifts to Mrs. Smith from the Senior Ladies' class, and gifts by individuals.

Smith came to the Pine Grove pastorate in 1975 after his retirement from the William Carey College faculty.

During the three years of his ministry the church has welcomed 40 new members, half by baptism; adopted a constitution and a rotation system for deacons; landscaped the grounds of the pastor's home; added considerable new equipment; and increased budget gifts by one-third, with a corresponding increase in mission giving.

The Smiths have returned to Hattiesburg to a new home at 3306 Arlington Loop, from which he will continue to answer calls from churches, short of a regular pastorate.

One's true religion is the life he lives, not the creed he possesses.

The fire of God in your heart will melt the lead in your feet.

## Pinola Will Celebrate Centennial

Pinola Church will celebrate its centennial on Aug. 13. Tommy Anderson, pastor at Harrisville, will be evangelist for the revival that will begin on that date and continue through Aug. 18. Rod Ferguson, minister of music at Harrisville, will direct the singing.

Lunch will be served at the church on Sunday, Aug. 13, and morning, afternoon and evening services will be held. "Former pastors and members have a special invitation," states the pastor, David Yeager.

A history of the church will be read. The 100-year-old church was established in 1878 at Old Westville and moved around 1904 to Pinola.

Pictures of the church in past years will be on display. Also gifts to the church, such as baptistry curtains and organ and other items, have been labelled, showing the names of the givers.

What will the fault-finding people do in heaven?

Nothing is more displeasing to God than complaining saints.



## Arlington Dedicates Sanctuary, Steeple

Arlington Church, Lincoln County held dedication services May 28 for the renovation of the sanctuary, the new organ, choir robes, church bus, and the steeple. Homecoming was also observed that day.

N. B. Saucier, a former pastor, was the morning speaker. The afternoon service was a program of gospel music by the Sonny Montgomery Family and the Taylor Echoes of Franklin County. All afternoon offerings went into the Building Fund.

Revival services were held July

## Off The Record

A hillbilly was arrested and brought before the commissioner for having a still on the premises.

"How do you plead?" asked the commissioner.

"I plead guilty and I waive the hearing."

"What do you mean 'waive the hearing'?" asked the commissioner.

"I mean," answered the hillbilly, "I don't wanta hear no more about it."

Wife: "I have some good news for you."

Husband: "What?"

Wife: "You haven't been paying those auto insurance premiums for nothing!"

The first time Timmy was taken to "big" church he was absolutely fascinated by the young minister, high above him in the pulpit. Soon the preacher was waving his arms vigorously and his voice had risen almost to a shout as he tried to drive home his points.

Timmy became more and more uneasy. Finally he could stand it no longer. With obvious concern he turned to his father and whispered, "What in the world are we going to do if he ever gets loose?"

## Devotional

### God Speaks Through Tragedy

By Larry Kennedy, Pastor, First, Laurel

God can speak to us through tragic circumstances. Hosea was God's prophet who came to understand through a very tragic circumstance the love of God for a rebellious people. Like any normal young man, Hosea fell in love and married the girl of his heart.

From this union three children were born and for awhile it appeared that Hosea and his wife would have a long and happy marriage; however, the unexpected happened. Gomer, his wife, deserted him and began living as a prostitute.

Living with the innuendos and malicious gossip of his neighbors, Hosea attempted to live through the experience. One day as he walked through the market place, he was astonished to find Gomer on the slave block being auctioned off to the highest bidder.

Gazing at her abused body, Hosea again felt the rivers of love flowing through his heart. It was at that moment he heard God say, "Go again, love a woman who is . . . an adulteress" (Hos. 3:2, NAS).

The crowd stepped back, allowing Hosea to approach the slave block. As he moved through the sea of a thousand eyes he could hear the whispers of contempt and the sarcastic laughter. Softly Hosea told the auctioneer that he wanted this slave. Removing his coat, he wrapped it around her broken and scarred body. Putting one arm around her shoulders and gently taking her hand, Hosea led her through the crowd.

As Hosea walked home with Gomer, he began to understand how God must feel when his own people rejected him. This experience had given Hosea a new vision of the love of God. Out of this tragic circumstance, God prepared Hosea to be a great witness of God's love.



Kennedy

## Uniform Lesson

## A Ready Witness

By Jackie Hamilton  
Highland, Meridian  
Acts 26:1-3, 19-29

In recent days worldwide news focus has been on the Russian system of trials. Americans have been especially interested because some of our citizens have been accused and tried in USSR courts. This is a reminder of the present scripture in which Paul is undergoing trial at the hands of the Roman government.

In the scripture under discussion, Paul gave his testimony, a word which means "the statement or declaration of a witness under oath, usually in court." A second meaning is, "evidence in support of a fact or statement." The third dictionary definition is "open declaration or profession as of faith." The last definition directly relates to a Christian witness of his faith in Christ. The experience of Paul to be studied in this week's lesson links the legal definition with the Christian aspect. Paul was on trial for his life and his legal testimony was a spiritual affirmation of how he had been converted.

I. Paul Before Agrippa  
(Acts 26:1-3)

Paul's mission was to testify "both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance to God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ" (Acts 20:21). He was able to fulfill this mission even under arrest.

In his speech Paul undertakes to show that neither his manner of life nor his teaching should arouse hostility. His argument is calculated to appeal particularly to the mind of Agrippa, and Festus found himself completely without understanding after the first few sentences. Paul spoke of his Pharisaic heritage, his former persecuting zeal, his vision on the Damascus road, his life-long obedience to the vision, his arrest, and his teaching.

Paul did not expect to profit or to lose anything in a legal way by his appearance before Agrippa. He had already appealed to Caesar, so his destiny was strictly in the hands of the emperor. Yet on the other hand, he did have much to gain by giving his personal testimony before Agrippa and the other dignitaries. Paul did not undertake to be brief, but asked for a patient hearing; probably he expected that Agrippa would be interested enough to listen to a fairly lengthy statement.

Paul described his early upbringing in Tarsus and then at Jerusalem. His contemporaries could testify that he had been brought up a Pharisee and lived according to the strictest rules of the sect. A Pharisee believed in the resurrection of the dead, and saw no fulfillment of Israel's ancient hope apart from the resurrection. The amazing and absurd feature of the present dispute was that Paul was being persecuted for his proclamation of this very hope. The hope was that God would keep his promise which he made to the fathers of the nation long ago. Why should they think it incredible that God should raise the dead? The Pharisees would answer that they did not think it incredible; they be-

lieved in God as the raiser of the dead. But Paul's point was that this belief had now been validated in that God had already raised up one man and had demonstrated that man to be Israel's long-expected Messiah.

II. Paul's Testimony Appeals His Case  
(Acts 26:19-23)

In his commission Paul was told to witness to what he had seen and would see. His commission was "to open their eyes, that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are consecrated by faith in Jesus." Paul was obeying this commission when he was arrested.

## Life and Work Lesson

## From Slave To Brother

By Bill Duncan  
Long Beach, First  
Philemon 7-21

"She was black; I was white. She was young; I was much older. She was unlearned; I was educated. She was English; I was American. She was poor; by her standards, I was affluent. She was a woman; I was a man. Two days before, we had never met. Yet we walked down a dusty road in the Bahamas thinking of each other as brother and sister. Who had bridged the chasms between us? Christ had. Because of our common devotion to Him, we were one. What united us was more than all that separated us." So wrote Fred Fisher in *Falling Walls*.

One writer sought to analyze the things that divide people. He classified these as natural barriers such as language, geography, distance, color, and sex. Others were artificial barriers such as nationality and religion. Personal barriers arose from circumstances of life such as ability, class, caste, possessions, education, and age. Some barriers arose from at-

titudes such as prejudices, bias, contempt, scorn, and hostility without reason.

God's ideal for the world is brotherhood. Any person who seeks to unite himself with God must join God in His concern for the brotherhood of men.

Philemon is the only private letter of Paul we possess. There must have been many other private letters. What is the significance of this private letter?

Onesimus was a runaway slave who found his way to Rome, to lose himself in that great city. Somehow he had come in contact with Paul and had become a Christian.

It was obviously impossible for Paul to go on harbouring a runaway slave, but something brought the situation to a head. Perhaps someone visited Paul who had seen Onesimus at Colossae, and the story came out. It may have been that Onesimus told Paul of his past.

In the time that Onesimus had been with Paul, he had made himself nearly indispensable. So much so, that Paul

would have liked to keep him. But Paul could not do that without Philemon's consent.

Paul sent Onesimus back. What a risk! A slave was not a person with rights, but a living tool. The master had the right of life or death over the slaves.

What happens to runaway slave? Did you see "Roots"? At worst, Onesimus could have been crucified.

So Paul gave Onesimus this letter. The theme of the letter is that Onesimus had once been a useless fellow, but now he was coming back, planning to be useful. Philemon must take him back, not as a slave, but as a Christian brother. He was now Paul's son in the faith, and Philemon must receive him as he would receive Paul himself.

What Christianity did was to introduce a new relationship between man and man. All the external differences were abolished because all Christians are in Christ.

It was as a slave that Onesimus ran away, and it was as a slave that he was coming back. However, he was not

much suspicion against him that they were quick to accuse without evidence.

It was at the close of his address to Agrippa that Paul stressed the point that his message was in harmony with the teachings of Moses and the prophets. These writings revealed a Messiah who was capable of suffering and serving as a light to the Jews and Gentiles through the resurrection of that Messiah.

III. Paul Made A Personal Appeal To Agrippa (Acts 26:24-29)

Festus found the whole controversy confusing, and especially he was puzzled by Paul's reference to Jews and Gentiles being enlightened by a suffering Christ who arose from the dead (verse 23). This was too much for him and he, "with a voice loud," said, "Paul, you are mad; your great learning is turning you mad" (verse 24). Some have suggested that Festus' remark was not offensive, but may have represented Paul's speech as being inspired.

It is Paul's reply that makes it clear that Festus did not mean simply that Paul was inspired, but that he meant that Paul was not fully rational. Paul answered that what he had to say about the resurrection was truth. It



only a slave; he was now a beloved brother in the Lord. When a relationship like that enters into life, social grades and castes cease to matter.

Christianity in the early days did not attack slavery; it did not urge the emancipation of the slaves. There were in the Roman Empire 60,000,000 slaves. What it did do was to make men better slaves, more efficient servants. Now the slave must do things in such a way that he could offer them to Christ. This did not mean that the master must be soft and easy-going and willing to accept bad workmanship and inferior service. It did mean that he no longer should treat any servant as a thing, but as a person, and a brother in Christ.

The Foundation of Appeal

Philemon was clearly a man from whom it was easy to ask a favor. He was a man whose faith in Christ and whose love to the brethren all men knew. The story had reached Paul in Rome. His house had been a place where the hearts of God's people had been refreshed. Obviously, Christian generosity and Christian charity were characteristic of Philemon. Now Paul was going to ask the generous man to be still more generous.

was at this time that he turned to Agrippa, with whom he was naturally more concerned than with Festus, and pressed him for a commitment. He directed his question to Agrippa in such a manner that it was difficult to evade. Agrippa did not want to be drawn into a personal endorsement of Paul who was pressing the claims of the gospel; thus Agrippa evaded the most difficult question.

We do not know what Agrippa meant when he said, "Almost thou persuaded me to be a Christian." It has made for good preaching but there is some doubt that he was sincere about his desire to become a Christian. Agrippa's statement could be: "In brief, you are persuading me to play the Christian." It could mean: "In brief, you are persuading me to make a Christian." That is, to help convert Festus. Whatever the meaning of Agrippa, Paul considered it an evasion; and he became yet bolder in affirming his yearning that all men might become Christian.

Paul was a "ready witness" because he had a valid personal experience with Christ to share. We could hope that all of us would be this willing to share our witness for Christ.

Paul describes himself as an aged man, a prisoner of Christ. The reason was that he had aged in Christ's service as an ambassador for Christ. One of the reasons Paul was in prison was that he dared to preach that Christ destroyed the barriers between man and God and between men.

Paul asked Philemon to break with social customs by forgiving Onesimus and establishing a new relationship with him as a Christian brother. This he realized was a difficult decision. There were no excuses given. The crime was serious, but Paul loved the sinner without condoning the sin. This is what he wanted Philemon to do.

Because of the close relationship with Onesimus, Paul wanted him back. This would be a gift and Paul would not coerce Philemon to grant his request.

Paul offered to repay any debts that Onesimus might have incurred when he ran away from Philemon's home. Christian brothers are willing to bear one another's burdens.

One crucial test of brotherhood is whether one is willing to help a person in need. It costs to be a Christian brother. Christianity never entitled a man to default on his debts. Paul writes with his own hand that he will be responsible for the debt.

It was Paul's rule to expect the best from people. He really expected Philemon to receive Onesimus as a brother and forgive him. Faith is expressed in commitment. Love spans the barriers, crosses the dividers, and binds all men.